

Sorem Family Genealogy

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Twin Cities, Minnesota
December 1995

This is a somewhat limited attempt at the tracing of the Sorem name from Norway to the present. I have spent some time (very wonderful rewarding hours!) tracking down where some of our ancestors went, and some information about them. I hope that you will find this of some interest to you, and if you have any further information or corrections, please let me know. I can't promise when I might do an update to this, but it has been so much fun that I am considering continuing at a later date.

Most of what I have are family trees, not all guaranteed to be accurate. Some information was pieced together from old obituaries and other newspaper clippings. Some was passed down from other people. Some was taken from historical books and reference books like county plat books. I do have some limited information on some family members, even though I have not yet done a lot of the most recent family. I also have some photographs of burial places for many family members which of course I did not originally duplicate, but may be included here or in a supplemental document. A narrative written by Lewis M. Sorem, son of Mons Sorem, is also included. The copies I have were getting a bit hard to read since they had themselves been copies, so I re-typed it for better readability (and now I also have it saved in a computer document!).

Special thanks to Kimberlee Sorem for the work she did on the family tree for the Mons Sorem family. I could not locate all of the information she had, so she obviously had sources I did not use. Also, the libraries at Morris, Illinois, and Worthington, Minnesota, were most helpful.

Also, a special thanks to those who preserved the narrative written by Lewis M. Sorem about the Mons Sorem family. It was filled with information vital to my searching.

The newspaper articles were re-typed because many of the copies taken from microfiche were not very good. Some I could barely read to re-type, much less make photocopies of them. I tried to leave the articles as they were originally presented, with misspellings, wrong names, wrong dates, etc. What I lose in not making copies of the originals is the surrounding material, such as stories of current interest at the time. That was part of the fun, reading in these old newspapers about John Dillinger, various medical epidemics, the World Wars, Viet Nam, advertisements of the times, and so forth. But in the interest of making the articles readable, I really had to re-type them.

What I learned, I think, above anything else is that the Sorems (and the Ostrems) who came from Norway were real pioneers. Those first generations pretty much stayed in one area (for example, most of Andrew's family stayed in the Morris, Illinois, area, and most of Mons's family stayed in the Worthington, Minnesota area). There were many trials and hardships. Family members died from epidemics, accidents, or in infancy. There were also triumphs. Nearly every obituary referred to the family members in glowing terms. The Sorem heritage is a proud one.

Miscellaneous Information about the Sorem Surname

Information I have received from several sources indicate that the (Americanized) Sorem surname was adopted by several people from the Sorheim region of Norway. These people were apparently not always related, but many clues seem to show that they at least knew each other (attendance at funerals, etc.). To complicate matters, there was also a shift from the patronymic naming conventions used in Norway to an American style, with a surname, given name, and perhaps a middle name.

For example, later in this document you will find a lot of information on the Andrew (Anders) N. Sorem family. Though I have his wife identified as Carrie N. (Kari) Gregoriusdatter, it appears that she also adopted the Sorem surname before marrying Andrew N., or else referred to herself that way in a past tense. She also had a sister, Gertrude, who used the Sorem surname (she married Tollef Maland).

Lars H. Sorem is another case (see later in this document). Despite the use of the Sorem surname, and living in the Worthington, Minnesota, area, it does not appear at this time that he was related to Mons ... at least not closely. I have not done work on the generations back in Norway, so maybe others have more information. Also, Lars H. Sorem was married to Kari S., and my information shows that Mons's wife Siri (Ostrem) had a sister named Kari. Their father's name was Sjure, so Kari may have used that as a middle name. It is pure speculation at this point to try and guess whether Lars H. Sorem's wife was a sister to Siri.

Sorems in Story County and Marshall County in Iowa were also a challenge. I do not know of any direct relationship to Mons, but obituaries indicated people from each side attending funerals of the other side. I have talked with one person in Nevada, Iowa, who said there are people in the family into the whole genealogy thing, so I will pass what information I have along to them.

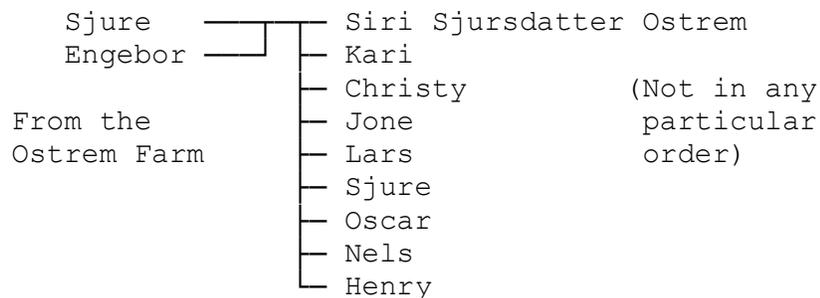
Besides brothers Andrew and Nels, Mons apparently had other siblings that emigrated to the United States, but I have no information on when or where they went. I am pretty sure that his brother Lars came over, and also at least one sister, though I am unsure of which one (Breta, Valjor, Stenvar). Some of the Ostrems who came to the U.S. ended up in Iowa, and others in Wisconsin, but I have done very little in the way of tracking down that side of the family.

I have done the best I could in verifying dates and facts, but older records were often inconsistent at best. I ran into things such as a death record and a gravestone having different years specified. Obituaries often disagreed on birth dates (and sometimes even death dates!). Whenever possible, I tried to use multiple sources to cross-check.

Note, too, that Nels, the father of Mons, Andrew, and Nels, was married twice, having children with each wife. I do not know that both parts of his family used the Sorem name.

I hope you enjoy the reading!

Near Etne, Norway, before 1867:



April 28, 1867

These people left for the U.S.:

- 1) Mons Nilson Sorem ——— Married May 6, 1864
- 2) Siri Sjursdatter Ostrem Sorem —┬── in Etne, Norway
2 children:
- 3) Nels M. Sorem (born in Etne, Norway)
- 4) Severt M. Sorem (born in Norway)
- 5) Andrew Nilson Sorem ——— Married in 1860
- 6) Carrie N. Sorem —┬── in Etne, Norway
2 children:
- 7) Nels A. Sorem (born in Etne, Norway)
- 8) Andrew A. Sorem (born in Etne, Norway)
- 9) Lars S. Ostrem (brother to Siri)
- 10) Oscar S. Ostrem (brother to Siri)

These people (among others) came later:

- 1) Lars H. Sorem (1887) ——— Married in
- 2) Kari S. Sorem —┬── Norway
[5 children also came]
- 3) Henry Ostrem ——— Married in
- 4) Anna K. Ostrem —┬── Norway

[At least one child -- died in the 1918 flu epidemic]

This is a partial listing of the ship's passenger manifest of the "Fredrik Petersen" on which Mons and Siri, with their children Nels and Severt, and Mons's brother Andrew N. (Anders) and his wife Kari (Carrie), with their children Nels and Andrew, emigrated to the USA in 1867.

240	<u>Mons Nielsen Østreim</u>	27	m	Residence Skaanevig*
241	<u>Siri !! Østreim* ??</u>	29	f	wife - Residence Skaanevig*
242	<u>Niels Monsen* Østreim*</u>	3	m	son - Residence Skaanevig*
243	<u>!! !! Østreim*</u>	¼	!!	baby - Residence Skaanevig*
244	<u>Anders Nielsen Sørem</u>	36	m	Residence Skaanevig*
245	<u>Kari !! Sørem*</u>	30	f	wife - Residence Skaanevig*
246	<u>Niels Andersen* Sørem*</u>	5	m	son - Residence Skaanevig*
247	<u>Anders Andersen* Sørem*</u>	2	m	son - Residence Skaavevig*

Fredrik Petersen Passenger List, Bergen to Quebec, May 6 to June 6, 1867

It is unknown if there was just an error in determining Mons's surname, or if he had not yet determined the appropriate farm name. Remember ... they were leaving behind the patronymic naming convention common in Norway. The name "Sorem" was derived from the Sorheim (meaning "south home") farm, and the name "Ostrem" was derived from the Ostreim (meaning "east home") farm. These farms were both in the area of Etne. For most of the Scandinavian emigres coming to America, they had a choice of retaining a surname that would still indicate their genealogical lineage (for example, "Larson" or "Larsen" to indicate descendants of "Lars"), or to "Americanize" with a name based on the farm from which they came. First, or given, names were also routinely made to be more American. It appears that Siri sometimes went by Sarah. Niels became Nels. Anders was transformed to Andrew. Kari might become Carrie.

So, in the passenger list above, in American terms, these are passengers 240-247:

Mons Nilson Sorem, 27 (father)

Siri Ostrem Sorem, 29 (mother)

Nels M. Sorem, 3 (son)

Severt M. Sorem, 6 months (son)

Andrew Nilson Sorem, 36 (father)

Carrie N. Sorem, 30 (mother)

Nels A. Sorem, 5 (son)

Andrew A. Sorem (son)

As noted earlier, Siri's brothers Lars and Oscar also emigrated at the same time.

Even though the patronymic naming system was no more to be used, many of the given names appear again and again throughout many of the Sorem families. Nels, Severt, Andrew, William, Michael, Lewis, and Joseph are some examples.



Location of Etne in SW Norway

59° 39' 50" N

5° 56' 00" E

In County of Hordalund



Distance of Etne from large cities of Stavanger and Bergen



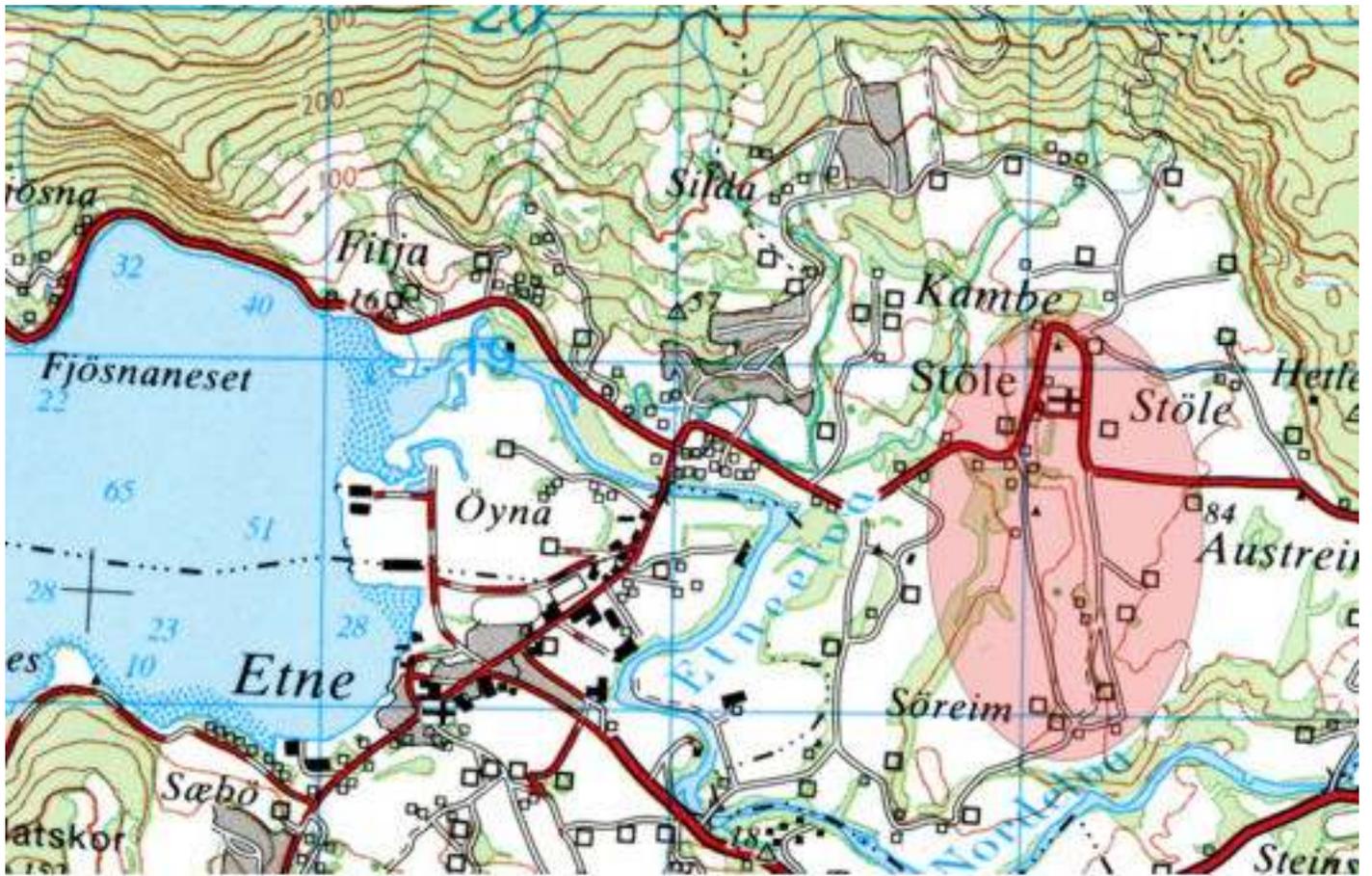
Closer view of location



The town of Etne



Overhead view of modern-day Etne



**Location of Sorem farm near Etne,
in Norway**



Modern-day entrance to Sørheim in Norway.

Photo: William M. Sorem



Modern-day entrance to Østrem in Norway.

Photo: Karen Fish

Mons N. Sorem

Following is the narrative about the Mons Sorem family, written by Lewis M. Sorem, son of Mons.

The description of the place in Norway where our folks came from, I got from Mrs. Anna Ostrem, a native from Wisconsin who was married to our cousin, Siguard Ostrem, who was a native of Etne, Norway. Etne is located 50 miles south of Bergen on a fiord (or bay) and the surrounding province bears the same name.

Sorem and Ostrem lie up the valley about three miles. At one time all of the region was Ostrem, a large farm. Now Ostrem is the homestead of nine families and Sorem has four or five. Anyone living in these communities has a right to the surname Sorem or Ostrem. The people in and around Etne are very progressive, and any American would have no trouble making his wants known. In fact the Etne province has led in many of the outstanding progressive measures that have been undertaken in Norway. It is also considered one of the most beautiful regions. So much for the places.

Now Our Folks Family

Father was born on the 12th of May, 1840 of parents Nels and Breta. He had three brothers, Lars, Andrew and Nels and three sisters Stenvar, Valjor, Breta. Father, Andrew and Breta came to the United States.

Mother was born March 29th, 1838 of parents Sjure and Engebor Ostrem. Mother had six brothers: Jone, Lars, Sjure, Oscar, Nels, and Henry, and two sisters: Kari and Christy.

Grandpa and Grandma Sorem had 18 grandchildren and Grandpa and Grandma Ostrem had 49.

Father and Mother were married on the 6th of May, 1864, and bought a little place in Norway, which they sold again in 1867 and on April 28, 1867, left for America with their two sons, also Father's brother Andrew and his family, and Mother's two brothers, Lars and Oscar. Ten all told, came by sail boat all the way across the Atlantic Ocean, up the St. Lawrence River, and across the Great Lakes, landing at Chicago and got to Morris, Illinois the 18th of June.

At first Father and his family stayed with Father's nephew, and for a while worked in the neighborhood as day laborer. About 1869 he began farming for himself on a rented farm. In 1880 we moved onto a farm father had bought about three miles north of Morris. Father and the older boys worked very hard. The land was good, but weedy and stony. In 1885, a neighbor said to father, "I will buy your place, and you with so many boys should go west and get more land." That summer Father went west, came to Nobles County, Minnesota, bought the south ½ of section 21, Ransom Township, all raw prairie, not a stick on it. The spring of '86 we moved west onto a small farm Father had just bought near the new farm. We lived on that small farm about six years and worked both farms. In the fall of 1892 we built on the big farm which was in the neighborhood of the Shores, Scots, Miltons and Graves; a finer neighborhood is hard to find. Father, Mother, and brother Ole lived on the new farm until the fall of 1909. At that time the place was sold. Father and Mother now moved to Jewell, Iowa, where they stayed for three years. Being too far from the children, they moved back to Nobles County, to a small town called Bigelow. In 1914, they celebrated their Golden Wedding with many relatives and friends.

Mother died July 29th, 1916 at the age of 78 years and five months. The funeral was held at Ransom Church and she was layed to rest in the Lutheran Cemetery in Ransom. Father made his home mostly with his youngest daughter Carrie (Sorem) Eide. Father died the 29th of February, 1920 at the age of 79 years, ten months and twelve days. The funeral was held at the Ransom Church on Wednesday, March 3rd (a very stormy day), and was layed to rest beside his wife. So ended the life of our beloved Father and Mother. Blessed be their Memory. They left to mourn for them six sons and three daughters, (One son died in infancy in Illinois.) and thirty-five grandchildren.

This is a certificate which Lewis Sorem received in 1955, followed by a proof of name change ... presumably for purposes of eligibility for Social Security. Curiously, the name change affidavit does not state a year.

Certificate of Baptism and Birth

This Certifies

That Lars u Son
of Mons Nilsen and his wife
Siri Sjursdatter was born on the 28th day of
February, 1876, at Near Newark, Kendall County, Illinois, U.S.A.

Received
Christian Baptism
on the 30th day of April in the year of our Lord 1876

According to the record of the Lisbon Luth. Church, Newark, Illinois

S. A. Rasmussen Pastor

By Nils Klungtvedt, Pastor

WITNESSES { S. Ostrem, Tollef Johannesen,
Jacob Jacobsen, Guri Ostrem,
Eerta Sorem

Date (of this Certificate) May 13, 1955

Lisbon Evangelical Lutheran Church

NILS KLUNGTVEOT, PASTOR
PHONE LISBON 6167 R. F. D. NO. 3
NEWARK, ILLINOIS

AFFIDAVIT IN PROOF OF CHANGE OF NAME

County of Kendall }
State of Illinois } S.S.

I, Nils Klungtvedt, Pastor of the Lisbon Lutheran Church, Newark, Illinois and keeper of the records and files thereof, hereby certify that the name Lars, the son of Mons Nilsen and his wife Siri Sjursdatter, has been changed to Lewis Sorem. Therefore, Lars, the son of Mons Nilsen and his wife Siri Sjursdatter, and Lewis Sorem is one and the same person.

Nils Klungtvedt
Pastor of the Lisbon Lutheran Church

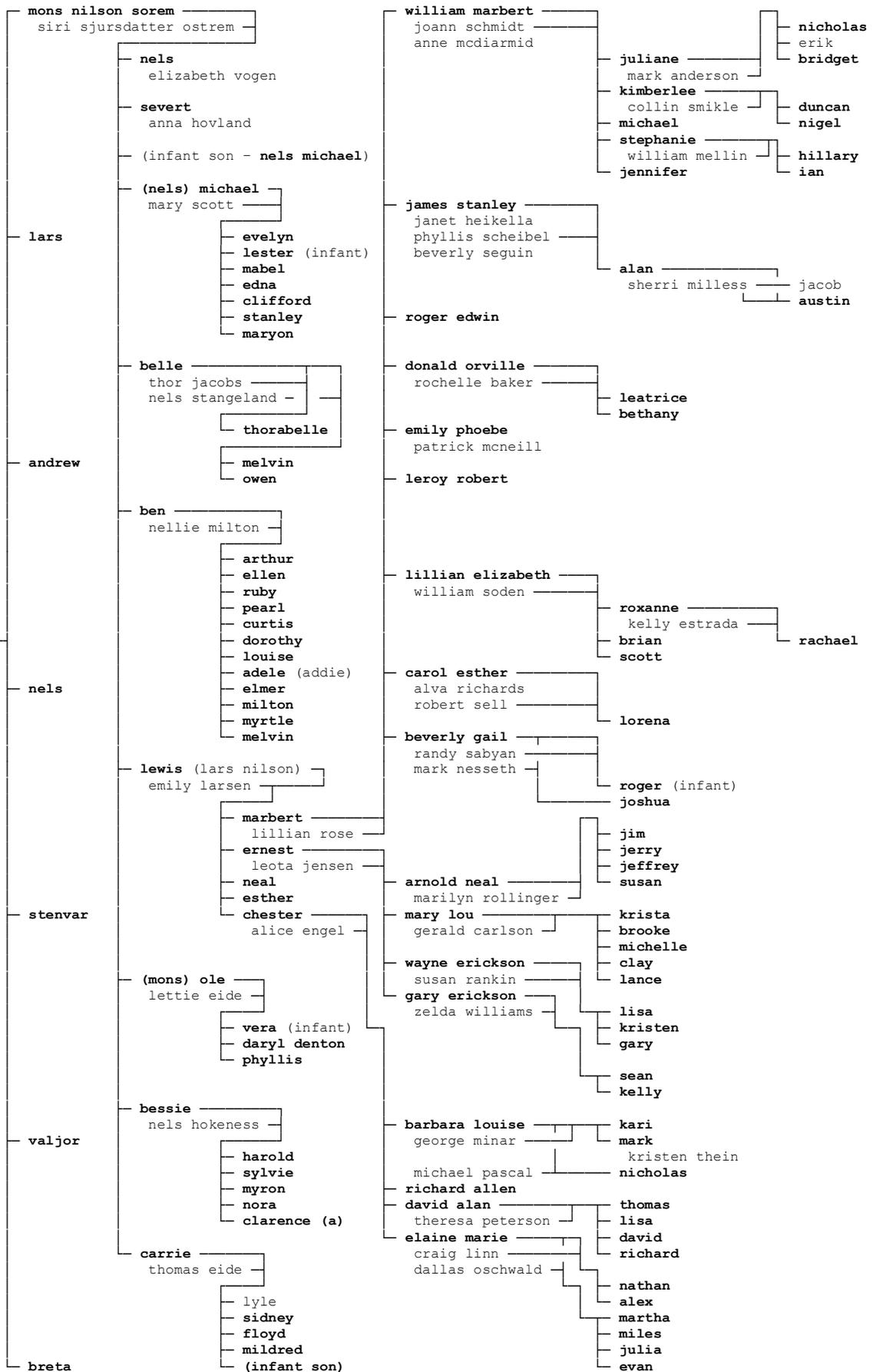
Witnesses { Mrs. Thelma Anderson
Harsed E. Hilt

Subscribed and sworn before me this 17 Day of May.

Amy Hilt
Notary Public

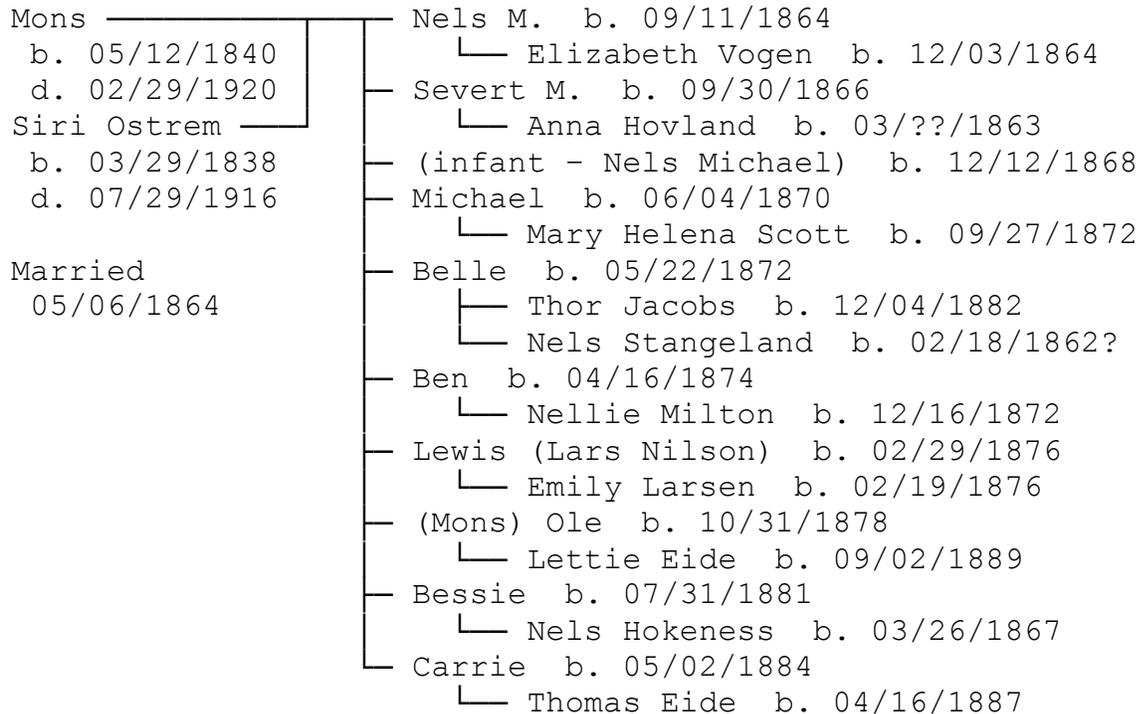
SOREM

the descendants
of nels and breta
of sorheim, near
etne, norway



Mons Nilson Sorem Family

Wife: Siri Sjursdatter Ostrem



Please also see the narrative written by Lewis Sorem for more information on this family. Mons (son of Nels Michaelson, 1784-1874, and Brita Larsdatter, 1796-1871) and Siri were both born in Norway, were married in Etne in 1864, and had two children in Norway (Nels and Severt). They came to the Morris, Illinois, area in 1867, and lived near there until 1885. Then they moved west to near Sibley, Iowa, where they rented a farm. Mons bought some land in Ransom Township of Nobles County, Minnesota, but did not live there immediately. The land was virgin prairie with no trees. In a few years, they built a homestead and lived there until 1909. Then they sold the farm and moved to near Jewell, Iowa, to be near Siri's three brothers and one sister. In 1913, Siri missed her children, so they built a home in Bigelow, Minnesota, just south of Worthington. They lived there until Siri's death in 1916. Mons then lived with his youngest daughter, Carrie, and her husband, Thomas Eide, until his death in 1920. Mons and Siri were both originally buried in the Ransom Lutheran Cemetery south of Rushmore, Minnesota, but have been moved to the Worthington Cemetery. The Ransom Lutheran Church used to be very near this cemetery, but it no longer exists, and it appears that many people originally buried there have been moved, as there is much open space. The infant son that was born to Mons and Siri is buried, apparently with no marker, in the West Lisbon Lutheran Cemetery, north of Morris, Illinois. The only thing I found was a record of "A Sorem, no marker, no date" at the Morris library. As an aside, I believe that it is possible that Siri was a sister or cousin to Lars H. Sorem's wife, Kari, but this is far from certain.

Nels M. Sorem (son of Mons) Family

Wife: Elizabeth Vogen

Nels M. _____ (No children)
b. 09/11/1864 [but see below]
d. 02/01/1937
Elizabeth Vogen _____
b. 12/03/1864
d. 02/28/1936

Married
12/27/1884

Nels was born near Etne Norway in 1864. He was 2½ years old when his family came to the United States (Morris, Illinois) in 1867. He married Elizabeth Vogen in Morris in 1884. Elizabeth Vogen was born in Bergen, Norway, in 1864. She came to the United States with her family in 1881, and settled near Morris, Illinois. Her sister Alice Vogen was married to Andrew A. Sorem (they lived near Morris). Her brother Thor Jacobs was the first husband of Belle Sorem, a sister to Nels M. Sorem. She also had a sister Bertha who was married to a Grunstad in the Morris area. Nels and Elizabeth moved to Osceola, Iowa in 1885, and then to Ransom Township, Nobles County, Minnesota. In 1908, Bertha Grunstad and her husband both died, so Nels and Elizabeth, not having any children of their own, took in four of the Grunstad children and raised them as their own. They were Esther, Neuman, Torrance, and Daniel Edward. In 1903, Nels operated the hardware store in Bigelow, Minnesota, with his brother Michael. In 1906, Nels sold out to Michael and went back to farming until 1919 when Nels and Elizabeth moved to Worthington to retire. They are buried in the Worthington Cemetery, as are the four Grunstad children mentioned.

Daniel Edward Grunstad was born 07/05/1898, and died 03/02/1931 from a car accident in Worthington. He married Harriet Scott on 02/18/1920. They had two children, Chesleigh (born in 1910) and Daniel (born in 1913). Torrance J. Grunstad was born in 1902 and died in 1965. He went to Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, but became ill and returned to Worthington where he lived as a recluse. Neuman L. Grunstad was born in 1906 and died in 1989. Esther M. Grunstad was born in 1907 and died in 1970. They also had three half-sisters, Pearl E. Thompson (who stayed with Nels and Elizabeth for a time), Bertha Sorem Anderson Hill (who was adopted by Andrew A. and Alice V. Sorem in Morris, Illinois), and Sadie Brewe.

Severt M. Sorem (son of Mons) Family Wife: Anna Hovland

Severt M. _____ (No children)
b. 09/30/1866
d. 01/17/1937
Anna Hovland _____
b. 03/??/1863? (maybe 1864)
d. 02/06/1948 (death record; gravestone says 1947)

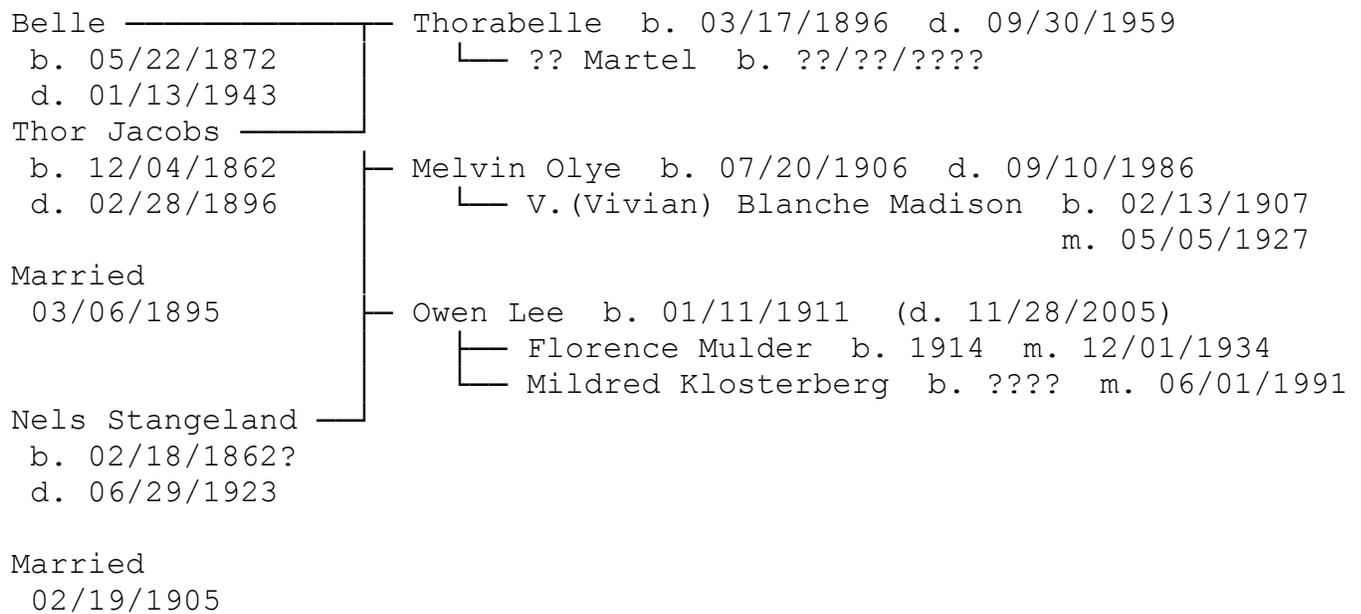
Married
12/22/1896

Severt was born near Etne Norway in 1866. He was eight months old when his family came to the United States (Morris, Illinois) in 1867. The family farmed near Morris until they moved west in 1885, first to Osceola, Iowa, then to Ransom Township, Nobles County, Minnesota. Severt married Anna Hovland in 1896. She was born in Norway and came to the United States with her family in 1894. Her family lived in Story County, Iowa from 1894-1896. Severt bought some farmland in Ransom Township in 1894 and farmed it for three years. He sold that land and bought another farm and improved it for two years. He then traded that farm for western land, moved to the town of Bigelow, Minnesota, and ran the feedmill and bought stock for two years. He rented land and farmed for three years, then bought land once again in Ransom Township in 1906. In 1909, Severt and Anna moved to the Story City, Iowa, area, where her family lived, and remained there the rest of their lives. They had no children. Severt and Anna are buried in Fairview Cemetery in Story City.

Belle Sorem (daughter of Mons) Family

Husband #1: Thor Jacobs

Husband #2: Nels Stangeland



(Continued on next page)

Belle Sorem Family (continued)

Belle (I found several sources that referred to her as Isabel) was born in Grundy County, Illinois, in 1872 and moved with her family to Ransom Township, Nobles County, Minnesota, when she was 13 years old. She married Thor Jacobs, a brother of Elizabeth Vogen (Mrs. Nels M. Sorem), Alice Vogen (Mrs. Andrew A. Sorem) and Mrs. Bertha Grunstad, in early 1895. Thor died of "illness and high fever" on February 28, 1896 (he was ill for only one week), and less than three weeks later, on March 17, 1896, Belle had a daughter named Thorabelle. On February 19, 1905, Belle married Nels Stangeland. Nels had four children with his first wife, Anna Johnson (1870-1903; married Feb. 1894). Three of them were Sarah (1896-1979; married Louis Aasby), (Nels) Leonard (1898-1996; later married Renas Mae Wilson), and Arthur (1900-1971; later married Grace Lee). The fourth, Nora (1894-1903), died at a young age (9). Apparently there were also two sons who died in infancy. There is a large burial plot at the Lutheran Cemetery in Adrian, Minnesota, where Thor Jacobs, Anna Stangeland, Nora Stangeland, Belle Sorem Jacobs Stangeland, Nels Stangeland, and Thorabelle Jacobs Martel are all buried. Thor was originally buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Ransom Township, according to his obituary. There is more information on Nels Stangeland later in this document.

Nels and Belle's son Melvin married V. Blanche Madison on May 5, 1927, and they had six children, Maynard, Carol (Mrs. Alfred Dickman), Arlis (Mrs. Hoyd Reeverts), Janice (Mrs. Norman Rosenberg), Lucile (Mrs. Donald Martin), and Meredith. In 1935, they moved to a farm near Lake Wilson, Minnesota, before moving to Worthington, Minnesota, where Melvin became a building contractor. One daughter, Janice Rosenberg, lived in Worthington. I have not had much luck in finding an obituary or record of burial for Melvin, but I do have an obituary for Blanche (later in this document).

Son Owen married Florence Mulder, and later Mildred Klosterberg. He had two sons, Virgil (wife: Beverly) and Joel (wife: Mariann), and two daughters, Wyonne (married Donald Hamann; later John Goodwin) and Cynthia (husband: Joe Glanzer). (Owen is buried at Memorial Gardens in Luverne, MN.)

Ben L. Sorem (son of Mons) Family

Wife: Nellie Milton

Ben _____
b. 04/16/1874
d. 02/05/1958
Nellie Milton _____
b. 12/16/1872
d. 01/13/1968
Married
09/09/1896

Ellen Serena b. 06/19/1897 d. 03/26/1982
└─ Harry Joul b. 06/19/1896 d. 05/04/1969
Arthur Edward b. 12/22/1898 d. 06/23/1978
└─ Grace Anderegg b. 09/28/1903 d. 07/24/1973
Melvin Lawrence b. 11/10/1900 d. 06/25/1968
└─ Bertha Ousbye b. 12/14/1900 d. 07/23/1991
Myrtle Luella b. 07/14/1902 (d. 12/14/2000)
└─ Glenn Kinsman b. 01/07/1903 d. 12/30/1993
(Esther) Louise b. 04/29/1904 d. 06/17/1986
└─ Bernard Ackley b. 04/10/1894 d. 05/17/1975
Adele Leila (Addie) b. 02/07/1906 d. 09/30/1925
Milton B. b. 09/24/1907 d. 03/03/1987
└─ Norah Heath Gordon O'Leary? b. ???/??/????
└─ ?? ?? b. ???/??/????
Elmer N. b. 07/05/1909 (d. 04/07/1997)
└─ French Levine b. ???/??/???? m. 1935
└─ Nellie Young b. 1935 d. 1993 m. 09/19/1962
Pearl M. b. 03/05/1911 (d. 09/11/2008)
└─ Perry Myers b. 08/25/1902 (d. 04/01/1999)
Ruby b. 12/20/1912 (d. 12/13/1998)
└─ Max Keith b. 10/14/1906 (d. 07/27/2002)
Dorothy Elizabeth b. 01/07/1915 (d. 12/21/2001)
└─ Warren Grant b. 01/09/1909 (d. 11/21/1998)
(Eldred) Curtiss b. 12/06/1918 (d. 03/31/2010)
└─ Betty J. Frost b. 04/03/1924 d. 11/04/1993
└─ Sarah ?? b. ????? d. ????? m. 1994

(Continued on next page)

Ben L. Sorem Family (continued)

Ben was born in Grundy County, Illinois, in 1874 and moved with his family to Ransom Township, Nobles County, Minnesota, when he was 12 years old. He lived with his family until 1896 when he rented farmland in Ransom Township, and on September 9th married Nellie Ellen Milton. Ben bought some land in 1904 and farmed there until 1919. He moved his family to Northfield, Minnesota, for one year, then returned to Nobles County and farmed land north of Worthington until 1938 when he retired in Worthington. Ben and Nellie had 12 children as shown above. Much of the following information was taken from Ben's obituary in 1958, but on-line sources were also a big help. Ellen Serena [some sources say Suená] (married to Harry Joul 06/21/1922) lived in Lakefield, MN. Arthur (married to Grace Bertha Anderegg 04/25/1923) lived in Jackson, MN, and worked at farming, and farm implement and auto sales. They had two children, one of which was Gwendolyn Audrey. Arthur died in 1978 and is buried in Jackson, MN. Melvin (married to Bertha Lillian Ousbye 04/18/1921) lived in St. Paul, MN. Known children at this time include sons Robert Ousbye Sorem and Ron, and a daughter, Kay. Robert died in WW II action at Leyte Gulf in the Philippines in 1944. [Ron died in 2003.] Ron was married to Judy Lafollette, and they had children Kaia, Sam, Tom, and Keith. Myrtle (married to Glenn [some sources say Glen] Kinsman 11/21/1923) lived in Worthington. Louise (married to Bernard Ackley 06/26/1939) lived in Anaheim, CA. Addie had been a teacher near Ashton, IA, but was suddenly taken ill and died September 30, 1925. Milton became a doctor and lived in St. Paul with his wife Norah. I could find no information about children. Milton also later (around 1971) lived with a life partner, and had children Gretchen Michal, Anthony Milton, Anita Louise, and Alana Eileen. Elmer married French Levine in 1935, and later (in 1962) married Nellie May Young in Canton, SD. Elmer apparently lived most of his life in Worthington. Pearl (married to Perry Myers 09/01/1935) lived in Minneapolis, MN. Ruby (married to Max [Maxwell] Keith 08/29/1942) lived in Worthington. The large Sorem headstone for Ben's family (at the Worthington Cemetery) has "Keith" on the other side of it. Dorothy (married to Warren Grant 02/07/1945 – see article later in this document) lived in Levittown, NY. Curtiss lived in North Hollywood, CA, and later moved to Northridge, CA, Sedona, AZ, and Sun City, AZ. It looks as if he may have legally changed his name to Curtis Eldred Sorem (see obituary later). He married his first wife, Betty Joan Frost, in 1941, and they had four children: Janice, David, Shirley, and Dianna. After Betty Joan died in 1993, he married his second wife, Sarah (no other information about her) in 1994. Ben and Nellie are buried at the Worthington Cemetery, along with Addie and Elmer's second wife Nellie (Elmer also has a stone there).

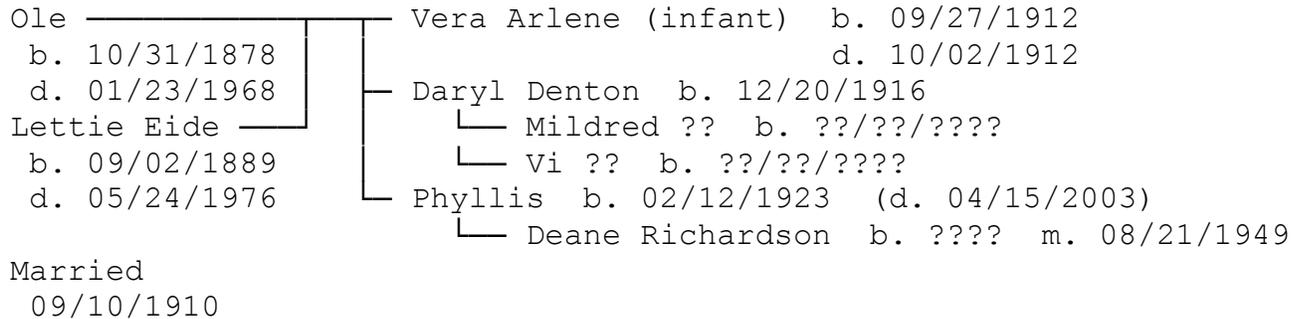
Additional Information on the Lewis Larsen Family

Emily Larsen was born (in a sod hut near Rushmore, MN) to Lewis and Olava Larsen in 1876. Lewis Larsen was born in January 1853 in Norway, and Olava was born April 17, 1846, also in Norway. Lewis Larsen's mother, Ellen, was born in December 1828 in Norway. Ellen and her son Lewis homesteaded in Minnesota (near Rushmore) in 1869 under her name, as Lewis was only 16 years old then. Lewis and Olava farmed this homestead, and Ellen lived with them. Olava died of cancer March 14, 1909. Lewis Larsen then lived for some time with his daughter Emily and her husband Lewis Sorem, and for some time with another daughter, Clara Fremming, from 1920 until his death in February 1938. He rented out the Rushmore farm all that time.

Emily Larsen's sister, Clara, married Fred Fremming some time before 1900, and they farmed near Northfield, MN. When Lewis was living with Fred and Clara, he bought some land in northwestern Minnesota and was ready to remarry and move there, but Clara was very much opposed to this, and Lewis never remarried. Fred and Clara Fremming had 12 children and farmed the land near Northfield now owned by Bob Winters.

(Mons) Ole Sorem (son of Mons) Family

Wife: Lettie Violet Eide



Ole was born in Grundy County, Illinois, in 1878 and moved with his family to Ransom Township, Nobles County, Minnesota, when he was 7 years old. Though his birth name was Mons Ole, he apparently went by Ole M. Sorem. He lived with his parents until they sold the family farm in 1909. In 1910, Ole married Lettie Eide, and they farmed in Ransom Township about three miles east of the original family farm. Their first child, Vera Arlene, died 10 days after she was born in 1912. She is buried at the Ransom Lutheran Cemetery. Daryl was born in 1916, and Phyllis in 1923. They both graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. Ole and Lettie owned the farm in Ransom Township in 1930, but they eventually moved to Northfield. The 1916 Worthington city directory lists Ole Sorem on Sherwood Ave., as an engineer, but I am not sure this is the correct Ole! Daryl and Mildred (maiden name unknown) had two children, David and Jean. Phyllis and Deane Richardson had two children, Laurie and Mark. Laurie is married to Ralph Johnson, and they live in Richfield, MN. Rev. Mark Richardson is a pastor in the New Brighton, MN, area. Ole and Lettie both died in Northfield, and are both buried at the Worthington Cemetery. (Phyllis died in 2003 in Northfield, Minnesota.)

Carrie Sorem (daughter of Mons) Family

Husband: Thomas Eide

<p>Carrie _____ b. 05/02/1884 d. 03/03/1968</p> <p>Thomas Eide _____ b. 04/16/1887 d. 02/04/1957</p> <p>Married 01/19/1910</p>	<p>┌── Lyle Myron b. 12/25/1910 d. 05/07/1989 │ └── LaVerne Kennedy b. 05/23/1913</p> <p>├── Sidney Burton b. 02/12/1912 d. 09/01/1965 │ └── Vera Ling b. 01/12/1916 m. 04/16/1940</p> <p>├── Floyd Oliver b. 01/15/1914 (d. 01/02/2001) │ └── Crystal M. Hoover b. ??/??/1920</p> <p>├── Mildred Luella b. 05/17/1917 (d. 04/05/2007) │ └── Harold Mulder b. 02/22/1917 d. 07/06/1989</p> <p>└── (infant son) b. 02/08/1923 d. 02/08/1923</p>
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(Continued on next page)

Carrie Sorem Family (continued)

Carrie was born in Grundy County, Illinois, in 1884 and moved with her family to Ransom Township, Nobles County, Minnesota, when she was one year old. She married Thomas Eide in 1910, and moved to Haakan County, South Dakota. After two drought years, they moved back to Ransom Township and farmed until 1945 when they bought a home in Rushmore, MN. According to confirmation and marriage certificates (see later in this document), Carrie's first name was actually Ingeborg. Thomas and Carrie Eide are buried in Sun Set Rest Cemetery, Rushmore.

Lyle married LaVerne Kennedy on March 26, 1940, and they stayed in Nobles County. Lyle and LaVerne had 4 children, Richard Lyle (born 07/30/1941), Kermit Maurice (born 12/28/1945), Dennis Dean (born 06/07/1948), and Janet Joyce (born 07/06/1950). Richard married Joyce Jensen on 01/06/1966, and they have three children, Rebecca Lynn (born 09/28/1968), Nathan Richard (born 12/18/1971), and Daniel Richard (born 02/17/1977). Kermit married Roberta McGregor on 04/02/1977. Dennis married Bonnie Lou Wallace on 12/28/1968, and they have two children, Matthew Paul (born 10/01/1972) and Aaron Dennis (born 01/30/1974). Janet married Dr. Ronald J. Whitely on 03/26/1977. Lyle died on 05/07/1989, and LaVerne died on 02/21/1994. They are buried in Sun Set Rest Cemetery, Rushmore.

Sidney married Vera Eunice Ling in 1940. They had three children, Don, Randy, and Pamela. After Sidney died in 1965, Vera remarried Jay Hvistendahl on 06/04/1977. (Vera died 08/29/2014.)

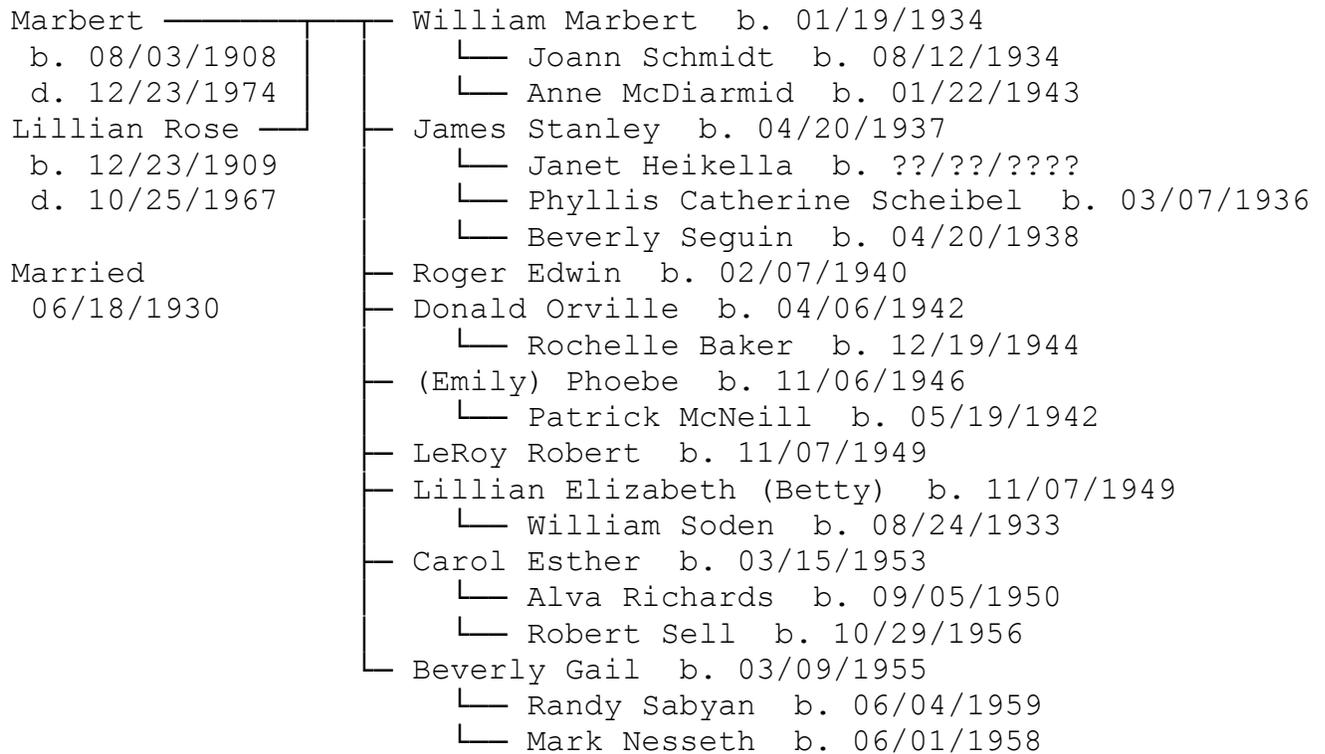
Floyd married Crystal Hoover on November 30, 1941, and they stayed in Nobles County. They had five children, Jerry Eugene (born 1943), Karen Elaine (born 1947), Merle Wesley (born 1950), Gary Wayne (born 1952), and Sharlene Louise (born 1957). Jerry married Barbara Johnson, and they have at least one child. Karen married Curt Shelander and they have five children, Dan, Mark, Cari, Eric, and Korene. Gary married Eileen Gaiser, and they have two children, Jennie Sue (born 1973) and Daniel (born 1976).

Mildred married Harold Mulder. The birth and death dates I show were deduced from public records from the state of Oklahoma. Both of these names were shown as having Social Security Numbers that indicated Minnesota, and the dates made sense.

The infant son of Carrie and Thomas is buried at the Ransom Lutheran Cemetery south of Rushmore, Minnesota.

Marbert LeRoy Sorem (son of Lewis M.) Family

Wife: Lillian Eliza Lorena Rose



Marbert was born in Nobles County, Minnesota, in 1908. Hope to do more on this family later.

Ernest Oliver Sorem (son of Lewis M.) Family

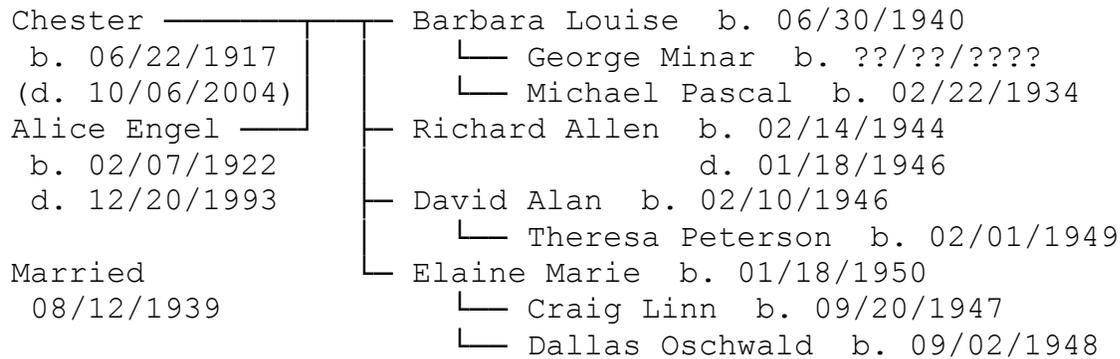
Wife: Leota Jensen

Ernest	Arnold Neal	b. 09/12/1935	m. 06/19/1954
b. 07/04/1910	└─ Marilyn Rollinger	b. 09/18/1935	
d. 11/24/1985	— Mary Lou	b. 10/24/1939	
Leota Jensen	└─ Gerald Carlson	b. 08/21/1937	
b. ??/??/1916	— Wayne Erickson	b. ??/??/????	
d. ??/??/????	└─ Susan Rankin	b. ??/??/????	
	— Gary Erickson	b. 03/05/1943	
Married	└─ Zelda Williams	b. ??/??/????	
??/??/????			

Ernest was born in Nobles County, Minnesota, in 1910. Hope to do more on this family later.

Chester Raymond Sorem (son of Lewis M.) Family

Wife: Alice Engel



Chester (Chet) was born in Nobles County, Minnesota, in 1917. Hope to do more on this family later.

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

Feb 28, 1896

Death of Thor Jacobs

Died -- At his home near the village of Bigelow on Friday, Feb. 28, Thor Jacobs, aged 33 years, 2 months, and 24 days.

Mr. Jacobs was first taken with what was thought to be an attack of grippe, but it soon developed into a high fever which ended in death. He died in about a week from the time he was taken sick. He was laid to his final rest in the Lutheran cemetery in Ransom township on Sunday last. The funeral service was held at the M.E. church, and was conducted by Webster and Arvick jointly, part of the service being in English and part in Norwegian. Notwithstanding the weather was somewhat unfavorable, the attendance was quite large.

Mr. Jacobs was a native of Norway. His parents with their family, Mr. Jacobs among them, came to the United States in 1880. The family settled in Illinois where two brothers and two sisters still live — the mother died some four years ago. Another brother is somewhere out west, and a sister, Mrs. N. Sorem, lives just across the line in Iowa. Mr. Jacobs came to Nobles county about three years ago, and has made his home in this neighborhood ever since. About a year ago he married a daughter of M. Sorem, of Ransom, and the young couple began life with hope and a seemingly bright future. But how often a morn that promises sunshine and gladness, is succeeded by clouds and tempest. So in human life, the future that unfolds before us is often so very different from that which we had fondly looked forward to. No death which has occurred in this neighborhood for some time has excited more general sympathy.

Mr. Jacobs was a man who had legions of friends, and hardly an enemy. He attended strictly to his own business, and let other people's alone. No wonder that he lived in peace. He was a member of the Lutheran church, and was a credit to it. The widow, her family and relatives have the warmest sympathy of the whole community.

Also Feb 28, 1896

A Card of Thanks

To all the kind friends who were so ready to render all needed assistance during our recent affliction, we desire to return our warmest thanks for their- sympathy and help.

Mrs. B. JACOBS
MR. AND Mrs. SOREM,
AND FAMILY.

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

Nov 14, 1902

FATAL ACCIDENT.

CHRIS SOREM ACCIDENTALLY KILLED WHILE HUNTING

The Accidental Discharge of a Shot Gun in His Own Hands Causes the Instantaneous Death of Chris Sorem, 16 Years Old.

Chris Sorem, the 16 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lars Sorem, was instantaneously killed by the accidental discharge of a shot gun while hunting ducks in a boat on the lake about half past ten o'clock Monday forenoon.

Chris Sorem, in company with Irvin Comer, aged 13, and Walter Comer, aged 15, who live a couple of miles south of Rushmore, and who were here on a visit with the Sorem boys, started out shortly after nine o'clock Monday morning to hunt ducks. The boys proceeded on foot around the shore of Okabena lake until they came to a point opposite the old Chaffer place, where they found a boat. The three boys got into the boat and with poles were pushing the boat out from shore. The Comer boys were in the stern of the boat and had their backs to the Sorem boy, who was in the bow of the boat

Irvin and Walter heard the discharge of the gun and, turning, saw their comrade fall to the bottom of the boat. The exact manner in which the fatal accident occurred will probably never be known. The boys say that gun was leaning on a seat with the muzzle up and pointing toward the bow. In all probability the young man was pulling the gun toward him when the hammer caught on the seat and caused the discharge. The charge of the shot entered the abdomen, taking an upward course and toward the left side in the direction of the heart. The charge did not go through the body and some of the shot doubtless entered the heart.

Death was instantaneous. The boys spoke to their friend upon learning that he had been shot, but he did not speak a word after the gun was discharged. The Comer boys pulled the boat to shore and lifted the body out upon the shore. They then came to town and informed the authorities and the boy's father.

The body was brought to town and taken to the parents' home, where it was viewed by Coroner Manson. The coroner found the facts to be as the above stated and did not deem it necessary to hold an inquest,

Mrs. Sorem is prostrated with grief over the death of her son. The family have not long been residents of Worthington, having moved here from Ransom township a short time ago. They have, however, the sympathy of every citizen of Worthington in their bereavement.

Funeral services were held at the Presbyterian Church Wednesday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Wilson Aull.

[I believe that the father in this story, Lars Sorem, was probably a cousin to Mons Sorem. Mons did have a brother Lars who came to the USA after Mons, but this is not him. If you look at the obituary below for Mrs. Mons (Siri) Sorem, you will note at the end that Mrs. Lars Sorem and two of their children, Severt (L.) and Sam, attended that funeral. This tells me that they were related.]

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

About Thursday Aug 3, 1916

MRS. SOREM PASSES HOME

**Life Ebbs Out Saturday
Morning, July 29, at
Five O'clock**

PASSES 78TH MILESTONE

**Funeral Services Held
On Wednesday After-
Noon in Ransom**

Mrs. Mons Sorem was born in Etive Norway on the 30th day of March 1838. Her parents were Sever and Ingeborg Ostrem. She was married to M. N. Sorem on the 6th day of May, 1864. They with their two oldest children, Nels and Severt, left Norway for America the 28th day of April 1867, came to Morris, Illinois, the 18th day of June. After about twelve years they bought a farm near Morris, Ill., on which they resided until the year 1886 when they sold and came to Nobles county, Minn., where they have since resided with the exception of four years when after having sold their farm five miles west of Bigelow they moved to Jewell, Ia, where Mrs. Sorem had three brothers and one sister living. They were blessed with ten children, seven boys and three girls. One son who died in infancy, was laid to rest in the Lisbon church cemetery, where Mrs. Sorem also has a brother laid to rest, having died in a small-pox epidemic in 1871. After having lived at Jewell, Ia., four years this mother began longing to go to her children in Minnesota where they moved

in the spring of 1913 and built a home in Bigelow near their children where they have since resided. Last spring Mrs. Sorem took sick with heart trouble and it seemed that the end was not far away though she seemed some what revived until two weeks ago, when she grew worse. Peacefully and fully devoted to her Lord and Master whom she had so faithfully tried to serve, at five o'clock Saturday morning July 29, 1916 her soul went back to its maker. Her husband and nine children still survive her and are left to mourn a loving mother the children are: Nels M. Sorem, residing near Bigelow, Severt M. Sorem, having lived near Bigelow but last spring moved to Story City, Ia., Michael Sorem also having lived near Bigelow but in 1909 moved with his family to Modesto, California last spring to Talent, Oregon where he now resides, Isabell, Mrs. Etrangaland living near Lismore, Minn., Ben Lous and Ole residing near Bigelow, Bessie, Mrs. Hawkiness, living near Rushmore, Carrie, Mrs. T. Eide also living near Bigelow. Besides the children there are 29 grand children, all to mourn the loss of a loving mother and grandmother. The funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon. A short prayer service was held at the house after which the body was taken to the Ransom church where the funeral services were held. Interment was made in the Norwegian cemetery west of Ransome. Relatives from out of town who attended the service were Mr. and Mrs. H. Ostrom, Mrs. Oteson, and Oscar Ostrom of Jewell, Ia., John Ostrom of Garden City, Ia., Mrs. Lars Sorem, Severt and Sam Sorem of Worthington, Severt Sorem and wife of Story City, Ia., and Michael Sorem of Talent, Oregon.

[This article, though essentially the same as the next one from the Bigelow Correspondence column, has many spelling and punctuation errors. I left them as they originally appeared.]

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

Thursday Aug 3, 1916

CORRESPONDENCE

BIGELOW

Mrs. Mons Sorem was born in Etne, Norway March 30, 1838. Her parents were Sjure and Ingeborg Ostrem. She was married to M. N. Sorem May 6, 1864. They with their two oldest children, Nels and Severt, left Norway for America April 23, 1867. Came to Morris, Illinois, June 18. After about twelve years they bought a farm near Morris, Ill., on which they resided until 1886, when they sold and came to Nobles county, where they have since resided with the exception of four years, when, after having sold their farm five miles west of Bigelow they moved to Jewell, Ia, where Mrs. Sorem had three brothers and one sister living. They were blessed with ten children, seven boys and three girls. One son, Michael, died in infancy and was laid to rest in the Lisbon church cemetery, where Mrs. Sorem also has a brother laid to rest having died in a smallpox epidemic in 1871. After having lived at Jewell, Ia., four years, this mother began longing to go to her children in Minnesota, where they moved in the spring of 1913 and built a home in Bigelow near their children where they have since resided. Last spring Mrs. Sorem took sick with heart trouble and it seemed that the end was not far away, though she somewhat revived until two weeks ago when she grew worse. Peacefully and fully devoted to her Lord and Master whom she had so faithfully tried to serve, at 5 o'clock Saturday morning July 29, 1916 her soul went back to its Maker. Her husband and nine children still survive her. The children are: Nels M. Sorem, residing near Bigelow, Minn., Severt M. Sorem, having lived near Bigelow but last spring moved to Story City, Ia., Michael Sorem also having lived near Bigelow but in 1909 moved with his family to Modesto, Calif., and last spring to Talent, Ore., where he now resides. Isabel (Mrs. Strangland) living near Lismore, Minn., Ben, Louis and Ole residing near Bigelow, Bessie (Mrs. Hokeness)

living near Rushmore, and Carrie (Mrs. Thos. Eide) also living near Bigelow. Besides the children there are 29 grand children, all to mourn the loss of a dear mother and grand mother.

The funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon. A short prayer service was held at the house after which the body was taken to the Ransom church where the funeral services were conducted. Interment was made in the Norwegian cemetery west of Ransom. Relatives from afar who attended the services were: Mr. and Mrs. H. Ostrom, Mrs. Oleson and Oscar Ostrom of Jewell, Iowa, John Ostrom of Garden City, Ia., Mrs. Lars Sorem, Severt and Sam Sorem of Worthington, Severt Sorem and wife of Story City, Ia.

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(Same column, later date)

Thursday Mar 11, 1920

Mons N. Sorem passed away at the home of his youngest daughter Carrie Eide on Feb. 29, 1920 at 2:15 p.m. at the age of 79 years, 9 months, and 17 days. Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon in Ransom church.

Mons N. Sorem was born in Etne, Norway, the 12th day of May, 1840 and was married to Sarah Ostrom, May 6th, 1864. Ten children were born to this union, one son dying in infancy. Besides nine children there are 34 grandchildren to mourn his loss.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon, from the house and then in the Ransom church. The Rev. J. A. Nundahl of Luverne and Rev. H. Hansen of Lake Mills, Iowa, officiating. Interment was made in the Norwegian cemetery, west of Ransom church.

[More complete obituary for Mons on next page.]

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

About Mar 1, 1920 (Not positive if this is from the Worthington newspaper.)

OBITUARIES

MONS S. SOREM

Mons S. Sorem died Feb. 29, 1920, at twelve-fifteen p.m. at the age of 79 years, 9 months, and 17 days. Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon in Ransom church,

Mons N. Sorem was born in Etne, Norway, the 12th day of May, 1840. His parents were Nels and Bertha Sorem. He was married to Sarah Ostrom, May 6, 1864. They left Norway, with their two oldest children, Nels and Severt, for America, the 28th day of April, 1867, came to Morris, Ills. June 18. After about twelve years they bought a farm near Morris, Ills., on which they lived until 1886, when they sold and came to Nobles County, Minn., where they have since resided, with the exception of three years, when after selling their farm near Bigelow, they moved to Jewell, Ia., where Mrs. Sorem had three brothers and a sister living. They were blessed with ten children, seven boys and three girls. One son who died in infancy was laid to rest in the Lisbon church cemetery. After having lived in Iowa three years longing to go to their children in Minnesota, where they moved in the spring of 1913 and built a home in Bigelow near their children.

There they resided until July 29, 1916, when Mrs. Sorem passed home which left Mr. Sorem lonely and longing to go to his heavenly home where he could meet his savior and dear ones and where there is a home prepared for all of those that seek Jesus. Mr. Sorem had been making his home with the children since his wife passed away and at death was with his youngest daughter, Carrie Eide, south of Rushmore.

Nine children still survive and are left to mourn left to mourn a loving father: Nels M. Sorem, Worthington, Minn., Severt M. Sorem, Story City, Iowa, Michael Sorem, Modesto, Cal., Mrs. Isabel Stangeland, Lismore, Ben and Ole residing near Bigelow, Lewis Sorem and Mrs. Bessie Hokenes, Northfield, Minn., Mrs. Carrie T. Eide Rushmore, Minn. Besides the children there are thirty-four grandchildren. The funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon. A short prayer service was held at the house, after which the body was taken to the Ransom church where the funeral services were held. Interment was made in the Norwegian cemetery west of Ransom church. Relatives from out of town were: Oscar Ostrom of Jewell, Mrs. Isabelle Melle and Mr. and Mrs. John Melle of Garden City, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Anderson and Mrs. Iverson of Yorkwell, Ills., Nels A. Sorem of Morris, Ills.

Rev. J. O. Mundahl officiated at the funeral, assisted by Rev. J. H. Hansen of Lake Mills, Ia.

[This obituary has fewer spelling and sentence structure errors than many others, but I still left them as they originally appeared. Note that several funeral attendees came from the descendants of Mons's brother Andrew N. Sorem in Illinois, notably Nels A. Sorem (son of Andrew N.), Mrs. Andrew Anderson (Emma, daughter of Andrew N.), and Mrs. Iverson (Betsey, daughter of Andrew N.). See later in this document.]

Sep 30, 1925

Young Girl Is Suddenly Stricken

Adelia Leila Sorem, 19, Is Dead, Following Brief Illness

The entire community was shocked Wednesday morning to learn of the death, at 7:45 a.m., of Miss Adelia Sorem, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Sorem, of north of this city, after an illness so brief that few of her many friends had any idea of its serious character. Miss Sorem complained of a slight indisposition upon returning home Friday night from her school near Ashton, Ia., but no importance was attached to her ailment until three o'clock Wednesday morning when the real seriousness of her condition manifested itself. Miss Sorem was able to make a trip to town only last Sunday, to consult a physician. Death is ascribed to complications arising from an influenza attack.

The deceased young woman was born in Ransom township, February 7, 1906, and aside from a year at Northfield, practically spent her life in Nobles county. She began her education in the district schools of Ransom township, graduated from the Worthington high school in 1924, and fitted herself for teaching by attending summer school at Sioux City, Ia., her first school being north and west of Sibley, where she taught last term. The last of August she embarked upon her second year as teacher in a school near Ashton, Ia.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon of this week, at 1:30, at the home, and 2:30 at the M. E. church, of which Miss Sorem was a member. This is the first time death has entered the ranks of the twelve Sorem children.

[This story is about Adele (Addie) Sorem, daughter of Ben L. and Nellie Sorem.]

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

Mar 5, 1931

Injuries in Car Accident Were Fatal

Ed. Grunstad Died Monday Night -- Pneumonia Was Immediate Cause

Daniel Edward Grunstad, 32, died Monday night at 11 o'clock in a Worthington hospital where he had been taken following an automobile accident on Sunday, February 22. The cause of death was given as septic pneumonia due to inspiration of blood and mucous while unconscious and in shock from a fractured skull. He apparently was beginning to make a recovery a few days after the accident, and it was believed that he would recover, when pneumonia set in.

Wednesday of this week Coroner C. P. Dolan held an inquest. Mrs. Grunstad testified as did as did Floyd Hansberger, driver of the car which struck the Grunstad car. Dr. F. M. Manson testified as to Grunstad's injuries.

The evidence brought out the fact that both cars were traveling at a moderate rate of speed, that Hansberger, being on Grunstad's right had the right-of-way, and that neither driver saw the other before the cars met. The coroner's jury, composed of E. R. Pardun, O. H. Nystrom, Frank Baker, John A. Albinson, Bennett Joul and Ernest Sterling, after a brief deliberation brought in an odd verdict stating that Grunstad in an unavoidable accident which was due to the negligence of both drivers.

County Attorney Arnold Brecht in commenting on the verdict stated that although the jury found negligence on the part of both drivers he believed there was nothing in the evidence to support an action on these grounds and that the statement in the verdict calling the accident an unavoidable one cleared Hansberger of blame.

Funeral services for Mr. Grunstad are being conducted this afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Church of Christ in Worthington. Burial will be in the Worthington cemetery.

Mr. Grunstad was born July 5, 1898 in Grundy County, Ill. When ten years old, his parents having died, he with one sister and two brothers, came to Worthington where they made their home with an aunt, Mrs. Nels Sorem.

On February 16, 1920, he married Harriet Scott. Two sons were born to them, Chesleigh who is 10 years old and Daniel, 7 years old. In addition to Mrs. Grunstad and the children, Mr. Grunstad is survived by a sister, Mrs. Pearl Decker of Boston; two brothers, Newman who is in school at Morningside College, Sioux City and Torrence who lives in Worthington; and three half sisters, Mrs. Bertha Hill of Dwight, Ill., Mrs. Sadie Brewere of Piano, Ill., and Mrs. Fred Thompson of Bryceland, Minn.

[At first I thought this obituary might be in error in stating that Mrs. Bertha Hill of Dwight, Ill., was a half-sister. The Bertha (Mrs. John Hill) named later was the daughter of Andrew A. Sorem of Morris, Ill. But it has come to light that Bertha had been adopted by Andrew A. and Alice V. Sorem, so the half-sister assertion is apparently true. In addition, when Daniel was young, both of his parents died (in the obituary for Mrs. Nels M. Sorem, Daniel's mother, Bertha, is identified as her sister), and he and three of his siblings were taken in and raised by Nels M. and Elizabeth Vogen Sorem. Alice V. Sorem was a sister to Elizabeth, so this would all make sense. But in the earlier information about Nels M. Sorem, it is stated that Esther was Daniel's sister and Pearl was the half-sister. It is unknown if Esther is the Mrs. Fred Thompson named here.]

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

Thursday Mar 5, 1936

Last Rites for Mrs. Nels M. Sorem, Pioneer Held on Tuesday

Mrs. Nels Sorem, highly esteemed pioneer resident of Worthington, died Friday morning at her home, at 200 Eighth Street, following an illness of several weeks.

Although her condition was serious, much hope was given for her recovery until the first of last week when she suffered a relapse. Death was the result of heart complications.

Funeral services for Mrs. Sorem were conducted Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock from her home and at 2 o'clock from the Methodist Episcopal church with the Reverend Ernest D. Groenig, pastor, in charge. Burial was made in the Worthington cemetery.

Surviving are her husband, one sister, Mrs. Alice Sorem of Morris, Illinois, a brother, K. Vogen of Aberdeen, Washington, also two nephews Neuman Grunstad of Reading and Torrance of Worthington, and a niece, Mrs. Pearl Becker of Massachusetts, whom she made a home for following the death of their mother, Mrs. Bertha Grunstad, her sister, several years ago.

Born December 3, 1864, in Norway, Mrs. Sorem came to the United States with her parents, brothers and sisters, in 1881.

Their first home in this country was at Morris, Illinois, where she met and on December 27, 1884, was united in marriage to Nels M. Sorem.

The spring of 1886, Mr. and Mrs. Sorem came to Minnesota, locating near Bigelow in Nobles county, where they resided for some time and later moved to Worthington.

Mar 15, 1936

Pioneer Woman Buried Tuesday

Funeral services for Mrs. Nels Sorem, 71, a resident of Worthington for the past 17 years and of Nobles county for 50 years, were held here Tuesday afternoon. Services were conducted at the Methodist Episcopal church, the Rev. Ernest D. Groenig officiating. Many people from all parts of the county came to pay their respects to the deceased who was very well known in the Worthington and neighboring communities. In his funeral address the Rev. Mr. Groenig read selections from Mrs. Sorem's diary which revealed many of the traits that made her so many friends.

Pall bearers were Henry and John Shore, Nels Larson, Oscar Johnson, Dr. G. G. Turner and Bennett Joul. Interment was in the Worthington cemetery.

Mrs. Nels Sorem was born December 3, 1864, in Bergen, Norway. She came to this country with her family in 1881. They settled first at Morris, Ill. In that year she was married to Nels Sorem and in 1886, they came west to Nobles county settling near Bigelow. They have made their home in the county ever since. Following the death of a sister, Mrs. Bertha Grunstad, Mrs. Sorem took the four bereaved children and brought them up as her own. They are Mrs. Pearl Becker of Wellesley Hills, Mass.; Newman Grunstadt of Reading; Torrance Grunstadt of Worthington, and Edward who died several years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Sorem celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary over a year ago.

Surviving, besides the step-children, are her husband, one sister, Mrs. Alice Sorem of Morris, Ill., and one brother, Knudt Vogen of Aberdeen, Ill.

Among the relatives who came from a distance to attend the funeral were Louis Sorem of Northfield; Mr. and Mrs. Severt Sorem of Roland, Ia; Mr. and Mrs. Sigvard Sorem and Mrs. Louis Sorem of Minneapolis.

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

Monday February 1, 1937

Nels M. Sorem Is Dead; Lived Here 18 Years

Nels Sorem, 72, resident of Worthington for the past eighteen years, died at 7:20 a. m. today, of uremic poisoning. As far as known now, the funeral will be held at two o'clock Saturday afternoon at the Methodist church, with the Rev. Ernest D. Groenig officiating. Though known to be in poor health for some time, Mr. Sorem had been abroad as usual, and was seen in public so recently that his death is a surprise to all but those with whom he was most intimately connected.

Born in Norway, September 11, 1864, Mr. Sorem was the son of Mons and Sarah Sorem, longtime residents of Ransom township, who came to the United States when he was two and one-half years of age, settling at Morris, Ill. Later they moved to Osceola county, Iowa, and from there to Ransom township, where they located when Mr. Sorem was 21 years of age.

On December 27, 1884, he was married to Elizabeth Vaagen at Morris, Ill. Mrs. Sorem died February 28, 1936, not quite a year ago.

In 1903 he and his brother, Michael Sorem, entered a partnership in the hardware business at Bigelow, which he followed until 1906, when he sold out to his brother, returning to the farm. In 1919 Mr. and Mrs. Sorem moved to Worthington, to spend the rest of their lives.

Surviving near relatives are three brothers, B. L. Sorem of Worthington, Ole and Louis Sorem of Northfield, and three sisters, Mrs. Belle Stangeland of Kenneth and Mrs. Thomas Eide and Mrs. Nels Hokeness of Rushmore.

[The maiden name of Nels's wife Elizabeth was Vogen. The B. L. Sorem mentioned in the final sentence is Ben. Mrs. Thomas Eide is Carrie, and Mrs. Nels Hokeness is Bessie.]

Friday October 9, 1942

L. T. Eide, 76, Ransom Farmer, Dies After Stroke

Funeral Services to Be Held Saturday at First Lutheran Church Here in Worthington

L. T. Eide, 76, for 48 years a resident of Ransom township, and widely-known throughout Nobles county and southwestern Minnesota as a progressive farmer and public-spirited citizen, died at his home yesterday after an illness of several months, following a stroke suffered last spring.

The funeral will be held Saturday at the First Lutheran church here, with the Rev. J. O. Mundahl, English Lutheran minister at Luverne, and the Eide pastor for 35 years, in charge. Burial will be in Worthington cemetery. The body will lie in state at the Benson funeral home until the hour of the service. The hour of the church will be 2 p. m.

Born in Norway August 13, 1866, Eide came to the United States at the age of 15, and spent his early years in this country in Illinois, where he was married before coming to Ransom township, to the former Bertha Olson, who survives him with eight of their nine children.

The surviving children include Thomas and Lester Eide and Edna (Mrs. Bennard Terhark), Rushmore; Cora (Mrs. Joseph Nash), Adrian; Earl A. Eide, St. Paul; Ella (Mrs. Spray Kvenberg), Chicago; Ruth (Mrs. Clifford Benson), Ortonville, and Lettie (Mrs. O. M. Sorem), Northfield. One daughter, Mrs. Maude Zierdt, preceded her father in death in 1934. There are 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

(Continued on next page)

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

L. T. Eide, Ransom Township Farmer, Dies

(Continued from previous page)

A brother, Samuel Eide, 74, lives at Aberdeen, S. D.

One of the organizers of the Nobles Cooperative Oil company Eide served several terms as president and was a director at the time of his death. For more than 20 years he was president and director of the Nobles County National Farm Loan association, and a director of the Nobles County Fair association, which he also served as president. He was also president and an active member of the Nobles county picnic association.

[The original newspaper story was split between page one and page five. Any errors in that original story are left as-is, including the repeated "a" before "resident" in the first sentence. Son Thomas was married to Carrie Sorem, daughter of Mon and Siri, and Lettie, identified parenthetically as Mrs. O. M. Sorem, was married to Ole Sorem, son of Mon and Siri. I do not know the first name of Maude Zierdt's husband.]

Monday January 18, 1943 (approx.)

Funeral Services for Mrs. Stangeland Held Saturday

Funeral services for Mrs. Belle Stangeland, 70, were held Saturday at the Adrian Lutheran Church with Rev. B. P. Furness officiating. Burial was made in the Adrian cemetery.

Mrs. Stangeland passed away at a Worthington hospital last Wednesday after an illness of several weeks.

She had been a resident of Nobles county for 56 years. For the past three months she had been making her home with her son Melvin at Worthington.

Six nephews acted as pallbearers. They were Harold Hokeness, Lester Wight, Lyle and Sidney Eide, Arthur Sorem and Glenn Kinsman.

Mrs. Stangeland was a sister of Mrs. Nels Hokeness and Mrs. Thomas Eide of Rushmore.

[Belle's maiden name was Sorem. The sisters mentioned in the final sentence were Bessie and Carrie, respectively.]

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

Monday July 5, 1943 (approx.)

Ransom's First White Child Is Dead in Calif.

Ransom township's first white child, Mrs. Michael Sorem, 70, Modesto, Calif., died July 3 at her California home, according to a message received by her brother-in-law, B.L. Sorem, 516 Grand avenue.

A daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Scott, early settlers of the Iowa border township, Mrs. Sorem was born in October, 1872, soon after their arrival in Nobles county. She was married to Michael Sorem in 1895 and the couple had lived at Modesto the past 34 years, since 1909.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Sorem is survived by their six children, all living in California. Services and interment will be at Modesto.

[This is from a California paper about the same time as the previous obit.]

Mrs. Mary H. Sorem, 70, Succumbs In Hospital

Mrs. Mary H. Sorem, 70, a resident of the Modesto district for 34 years, died in a hospital here yesterday after a three day illness. She was a native of Nobles County, Mo.

She was the wife of Michael Sorem, Mother of Mrs. Evelyn Gayman of Los Angeles, Mrs. Mabel McFarland of Long Beach, Mrs. Edna Stewart of Burlingame, C. M. Sorem of Ferndale, Stanley Scott Sorem of Berkeley and Mrs. John Williford of Oakland, and sister of John and Martin Scott of Froid, Mont., J. G. Scott of Cleveland, Ohio, Mrs. Bessie Euranius of Berkeley and Ormand Scott of South Dakota. She also leaves 11 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held in the Sovern Funeral Home Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. Rev. Arthur H. Wallace, pastor of the First Methodist Church, of which Mrs. Sorem was an active member, will officiate.

[Here are a few comments about these two articles. From other sources I show Mary's death date as 07/04/1943, not the 07/03 as shown in the first article. I also show her birthdate as 09/27/1872 instead of October as shown in the same article. The brother-in-law mentioned in the same article (B. L. Sorem) is Ben. In the second article she is identified as a native of Nobles County, Mo. That should, of course, be Nobles County, Minn. The child identified as C. M. Sorem is Clifford Michael. And, by process of elimination, Mrs. John Williford must be Maryon Helena. Note also that one obit says she died at home, and the other in a hospital.]

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

Wednesday July 12, 1944

February 7, 1958

Funeral Services for Mrs. Eide to Be Held Friday

Funeral services for Mrs. L. T. Eide, resident of Ransom township for the past 50 years, who died late yesterday at her farm home, will be held Friday, July 14, at 2 p. m., at the First Lutheran church here. Burial will be in Worthington cemetery. The Rev. J. O. Mundahl, English Lutheran minister at Luverne, will be in charge.

Mrs. Eide, the former Bertha Olson, was born in Mt. Morris, Ill., April 1 1867, and married in 1867 to Lars T. Eide, who preceded her in death in 1942. They settled in Ransom township in 1894.

Surviving children include Thomas Eide, Rushmore; Mrs. O. M. Sorem (Lettie), Northfield; Mrs. Joseph Nash (Cora), Adrian; Lester Eide, Roland, Ia.; Earl A. Eide, St. Paul; Mrs. Spray Kuenberg (Ella), Chicago; Mrs. Bennard Terhark (Edna), Rushmore, and Mrs. Clifford Benson (Ruth), Ortonville.

One daughter, Mrs. Maude Zierdt, preceded her mother in death in 1934. There are 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

[See the earlier obituary for L. T. Eide for comments about the children. In this article, there are a couple of errors. Bertha was born in Morris (not Mt. Morris), Ill. The married name of Ella should be Kvenberg (verified by a picture of the gravestone).]

OBITUARIES

Ben L. Sorem

Funeral services will be Saturday for Ben L. Sorem, 83, pioneer county resident who died Wednesday night at his home at 516 Grand Avenue.

Services will be at 2 p.m. from the First Methodist church, with the Rev. J. Wesley Johnston in charge. Interment will be in Worthington cemetery.

Family services will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the church, after which the body will lie in state until the hour of the afternoon rites, when the casket will be closed.

Friends may call at Benson Funeral Home tonight.

Mr. Sorem was born April 16, 1874 at Morris, Ill., the son of Mons and Sarah Sorem. At the age of 12, he moved with his family to a farm near Sibley.

He lived there six years before moving to Ransom township in 1892, where he and Nellie E. Milton were married Sept. 9, 1896.

He lived in Ransom township until 1919, spent one year at Northfield, then returned to Nobles county, farming north of Worthington until 1938, when he retired and moved into his present home.

Besides his wife, he is survived by 11 children, five sons, Arthur, Jackson; Melvin and Dr. Milton Sorem, St. Paul; Elmer, Worthington, and Curtis, North Hollywood; Six daughters, Mrs. Harry Joul (Ellen), Lakefield; Mrs. Glen Kinsman (Myrtle) and Mrs. Max Keith (Ruby), Worthington; Mrs. Bernard Ackley (Louise), Anaheim, Calif.; Mrs. Perry Myers (Pearl), Minneapolis, and Mrs. Warren Grant (Dorothy), Levittown, N.Y.; 28 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Sorem was preceded in death by one daughter, Adele, in September, 1925.

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

January 18, 1968

[Death date: Oct 27, 1972; Obituary date unknown]

Obituaries

Mrs. Ben Sorem

Funeral services were held here Wednesday from First Methodist church for Mrs. Ben L. Sorem, 95, who died Saturday night at a Jackson nursing home.

Mrs. Sorem was born, Nellie Ellen Milton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Milton, Dec. 16, 1872 at Mineral Point, Wis. She and Ben L. Sorem were married Sept. 9, 1896, in Ransom township.

They farmed in this area until 1920, when they moved to Northfield. After two years there, they returned to the Worthington area, which had been her home until moving to Jackson.

She is survived by five sons, Arthur, Jackson; Melvin and Dr. Milton Sorem, St. Paul; Elmer, Worthington, and Curtis, Northridge, Calif.; six daughters, Mrs. Harry Joul (Ellen), Lakefield; Mrs. Glen Kinsman (Myrtle) and Mrs. Max Keith (Ruby), Worthington; Mrs. Bernard Ackley (Louise), Anaheim, Calif.; Mrs. Perry Myers (Pearl), Minneapolis, and Mrs. Warren Grant (Dorothy), Levittown, N.Y.; 29 grandchildren, and 41 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, one daughter, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, four brothers and two sisters.

Obituaries

Mrs. Melvin O. Stangeland

Funeral services were held here Monday from First Methodist church for Mrs. Melvin O. Stangeland, 65, who died Friday night at her home. Dr. Ernest E. Lowe officiated. Interment was in Garden of memories.

Mrs. Stangeland was born, V. Blanche Madison, daughter of Ralph and Glee Patteson Madison, Feb. 13, 1907, at Worthing, S.D. She attended grade school at Gushing, Iowa, was a graduate of Adrian high school and of normal training at Worthington, then taught in a rural school near Wilmont for one year.

She and Melvin O. Stangeland were married May 7, 1927, at Adrian. They lived on the Stangeland farm near Kenneth until 1935, when they moved to Lake Wilson. After two years there, they came to Worthington in 1937.

Mrs. Stangeland started one of the first 4-H clubs (Lismore Western Rustlers) in Nobles county. She also taught release-time church school (interdenominational) classes.

Besides her husband, she is survived by one son, Maynard, Woodland Hills, Calif.; five daughters, Mrs. Alfred Dickman (Carol), Reading; Mrs. Lloyd Reeverts (Arlis), Vaughn, Mont.; Mrs. Norman Rosenberg (Janice), Worthington; Mrs. Donald Martin (Lucile), Winona, and Meredith Stangeland, New York City; 21 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by four brothers, Elmer and Earl, Browns Valley; Clarence, Center City, and Glen Madison, Mason City, Iowa, and three sisters, Mrs. David Grant, Springfield, Ill.; Mrs. Melvin Hunt, Worthington, and Mrs. Roy Carlson, Schafer. Her parents, one brother and two sisters preceded her in death.

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

(April 23, 2003, likely from the Northfield News)

Obituaries

Phyllis Richardson

Phyllis Richardson, age 80, of Northfield died April 18, 2003, at the Northfield Care Center.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. today at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 8600 Fremont Avenue South, Bloomington, the Revs. Morris Wee and Kristine Carlson officiating. Music will be provided by Kraig Windshitl, organist.

Phyllis Sorem Richardson was born Feb. 12, 1923, to Ole and Lettie (Eide) Sorem on a farm near Bigelow. She was baptized in the Lutheran faith and was raised on the family farm.

At age 11, she moved with her family to Northfield. She was confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church and graduated from Northfield High School in 1940. She attended St. Olaf College and sang in the St. Olaf Choir. She majored in English and music, graduating in 1944. After working a short time at the University of Minnesota, she moved to California and worked for the audio/visual department of the Stockton School District.

She married Deane Richardson on Aug. 21, 1949, at St. John's Lutheran Church. They continued to live in California, where Phyllis worked as a librarian at Stanford University and UCLA. In 1959, they moved to Denver, Colo., and to Fridley in 1963. While living in Fridley, Phyllis established the library at St. Philip's Lutheran Church. In 1970, they moved to the Tempe-Mesa area, and Phyllis worked for the Tempe Public Library, retiring in 1979. In 1991, they moved to Rapid City, S.D., in 1995 to the Twin Cities, and in April 2002 to Northfield.

She loved music and was an accomplished pianist and singer. She was active in many capacities in the churches where she and Deane belonged. She will be remembered as compassionate, fun-loving and dedicated.

She is survived by her husband Deane; two sons, Paul of St. Cloud and Mark of New Brighton; one daughter, Laurie (Ralph) Johnson of Richfield; seven grandchildren, Matthew, Anna, Maria, Daniel, Rebecca, Mari, and Andrew; one brother, Daryl (Vi) Sorem of Sun City West, Ariz.; one cousin, Chet Sorem of Northfield; nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and an infant sister, Vera.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the St. Olaf College Music Department or the Northfield Retirement Center.

Arrangements are with Benson and Langehough Funeral Home.

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

(July 22, 2007)

Obituaries

Owen Stangeland

Owen Lee Stangeland, 94, of Hills, formerly of Luverne, died Monday, Nov. 28, 2005, at Tuff Memorial Home in Hills.

Born Jan. 11, 1911, in Lismore Township, Nobles County, he was the son of Nel and Belle Stangeland. He married Florence Mulder on Dec. 1, 1934, at the church parsonage in Worthington. She died Aug. 9, 1989. He married Mildred Klosterberg on June 1, 1991, at First Baptist Church, Luverne. She died June 27, 1997.

After graduating from Adrian High School and attending Augsburg College, Minneapolis, he returned home to help his mother and brother hold on to the family farm during the 1930s. After marriage, they farmed the family farm near Lismore until 1971, when they moved to a home in Luverne. He worked for Hanson Silo Co. another 10 years. After Florence's death, he continued to live in their home in Luverne. He continued to live in Luverne until moving into Tuff Memorial Home, Hills, on Oct. 13, 2003. He was a faithful member of First Baptist Church, Luverne, for 60 years, and served as deacon and trustee. He served on the local school board.

Surviving are two sons, Virgil (Beverly) Stangeland, Willmar, and Joel (Mariann) Stangeland, White Bear Lake; two daughters, Wyonne (John) Goodwin, Raleigh, N.C., and Cynthia (Joe) Glanzer, Littleton, Colo.; three stepsons, Jerry (Dorothy) Klosterberg, Luverne, Duane (Janice) Klosterberg, Steen, and Robert (Leigh) Klosterberg, Sioux Falls, S.D.; one stepdaughter, Carol (Henry) Zwaan, Steen; 11 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; 15 step grandchildren; 20 step great-grandchildren; and three step great-great grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, with the family present from 6 to 8 p.m., at Dingmann Funeral Home, Luverne, and from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church, Luverne.

The service will be 10 a.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church, Luverne, with the Rev. Greg Standafer officiating. Burial will be in Luverne Garden of Memories Cemetery.

[I have no idea why the death date and obituary date are so far apart.]

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

(Unknown date and source)

Another obituary for Owen Lee Stangeland

Birth: Jan. 11, 1911
Death: Nov. 28, 2005

Owen Lee Stangeland, 94, Hills, formerly of Luverne, died Monday, Nov. 28, 2005, at Tuff Memorial Home in Hills.

Services were Saturday, Dec. 3, at First Baptist Church in Luverne. The Rev. Greg Standafer officiated. Burial was at Luverne Memorial Gardens in rural Luverne.

Owen Stangeland was born to Nel and Belle Stangeland on Jan. 11, 1911, in Lismore Township, Nobles County. He graduated from Adrian High School and attended Augsburg College in Minneapolis. After completing one year of college he returned home to help his mother and brother on the family farm during the 1930s.

He married Florence Mulder on Dec. 1, 1934, at the church parsonage in Worthington. They farmed the family farm near Lismore until 1971. They moved to Luverne in 1971. He worked for Hanson Silo Company another 10 years. They enjoyed traveling and visiting their children. He continued to live in Luverne after Mrs. Stangeland's death on Aug. 9, 1989.

He married Mildred Klosterberg on June 1, 1991, at First Baptist Church in Luverne. They enjoyed traveling with tour groups and visiting family. After a lengthy illness Mr. Stangeland died June 27, 1997. He moved to Tuff Memorial Home in Hills on Oct. 13, 2003.

He was a member of First Baptist church in Luverne for 60 years where he served as a deacon and trustee. He served on the Adrian School Board. He was a great support to his children in all their church, school and 4-H activities.

Survivors include two sons, Virgil (Beverly) Stangeland, Willmar, and Joel (Mariann) Stangeland, White Bear Lake; two daughters, Wyonne (John) Goodwin, Raleigh, N.C., and Cynthia (Joe) Glanzer, Littleton, Colo.; 11 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; three stepsons, Jerry (Dorothy) Klosterberg, Luverne, Duane (Janice) Klosterberg, Steen, and Robert (Leigh) Klosterberg, Sioux Falls, S.D.; one stepdaughter, Carol (Henry) Zwaan, Steen; 15 stepgrandchildren; 20 stepgreat-grandchildren; three stepgreat-great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Stangeland was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Florence, his wife, Mildred, two infant brothers, three brothers, Arthur, Leonard and Melvin, three sisters, Nora, Sarah and Thora and one son-in-law, Donald Hamann.

Dingmann Funeral Home, Luverne, was in charge of arrangements.

[Typos and other errors are left as originally written for both of these obituaries. Hills, MN, is in the extreme SW corner of the state, SW of Luverne.]

Obituaries from the Worthington, MN, Herald or Globe

(Arizona newspaper or on-line source,
after March 31, 2010)

Curtis E. Sorem Obituary

Curtis E. Sorem, 91, died peacefully in his home in Sun City West on March 31, 2010, his wife, Sarah, at his bedside. Curtis was born December 6, 1918 in Bigelow, MN. to Ben and Nellie Milton Sorem. He was the youngest of twelve children. He was raised in Worthington, MN. He married Betty Joan Frost, his wife of 53 years, in 1941 and they moved to CA, where Curtis had his 36 year career with Pacific Bell telephone, they had four children. Curtis also served in the Navy. Curtis was a highly moral and sensible man although he always insisted that he was "Just and average Joe". We were fortunate to have grabbed our cherished pieces of him. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty, in 1993; his daughter, Janice Sorem; and son, David Sorem. He is survived by his wife, Sarah, whom he married in 1994; his two daughters: Shirley (Ruben) Romero, Springfield, OR. and Dianna (Ed) Witzak, San Jose, CA; daughter-in-law Diane Sorem, Sunland, Ca; five grandchildren: Jo Ellen (Gary), Craig, Donna, Teresa and James; six great-grand children: Michelle, Laura, Danny, Kevin, Brian, and Mathew. There will be a private family service at a later date at which time his cremains will be interred at Sunland Memorial Park, Sun City AZ. In lieu of flowers, donation may be made to Hospice Inspiris, 2025 N. 3rd Street, Suite 205, Phoenix, AZ 85004 or a charity of your choice. Visit this person's Guest Book at www.yourwestvalley.com

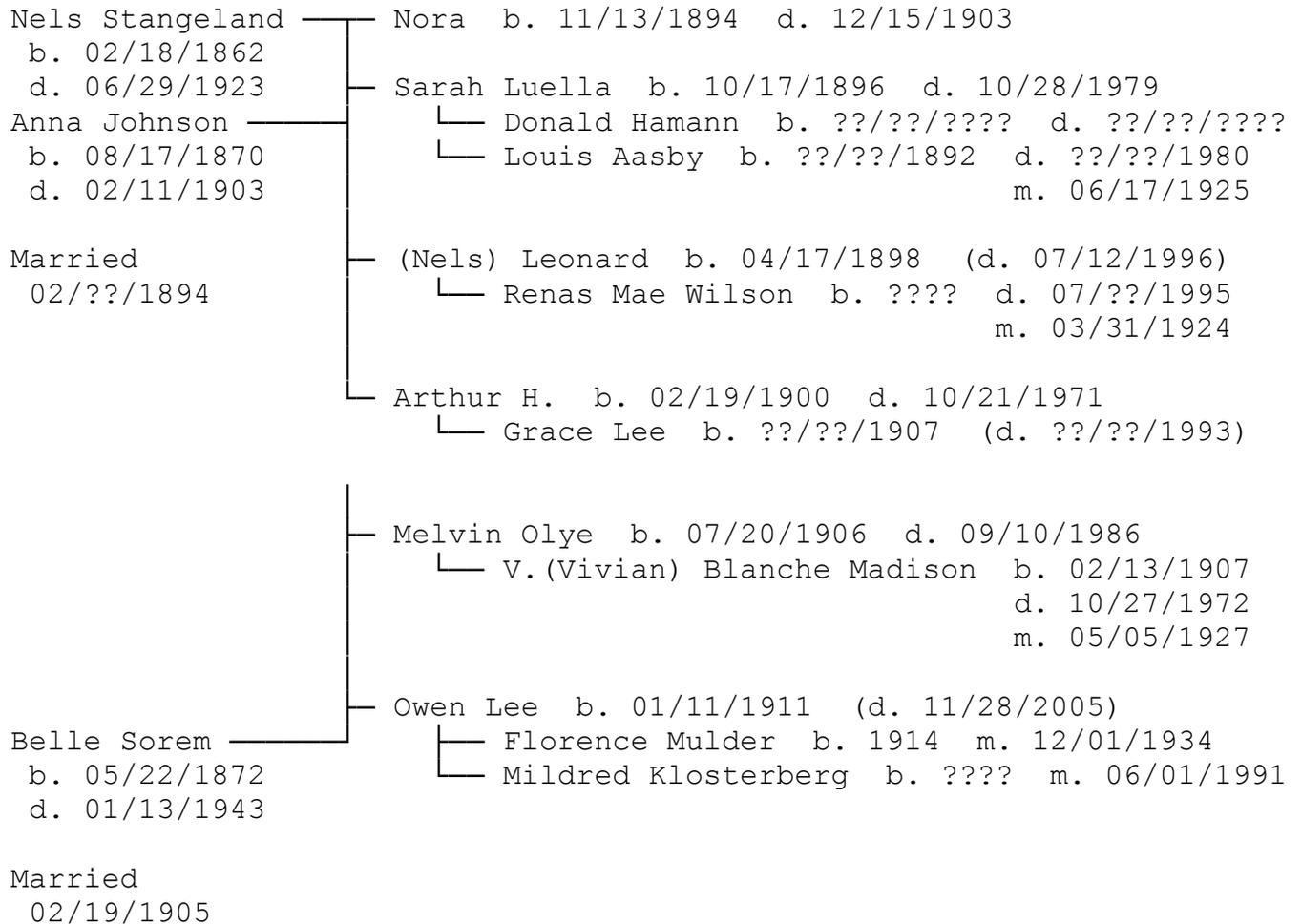
[Typos and other errors are left as originally written. Earlier information I have identifies this person as being born with the name Eldred Curtiss Sorem. It is unknown if there was a legal name change.]

Additional Information on the Stangeland Family

Nels Stangeland Family

Wife #1: Anna Johnson

Wife #2: Belle Sorem



(Continued on next page)

Stangeland Family (continued)

Nels Stangeland was born in Norway in 1862 (some sources say 1860) to Nels and Bertha (Larson) Stangeland. He married Anna Johnson, a native of Illinois and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lars Johnson, in February 1894. They had the children listed in the tree on the previous page. Nora died at age 9 in Lismore Township of Nobles County. Apparently there were also two sons who died in infancy. After Anna died in 1903, Nels married Belle Sorem Jacobs, widow of Thor Jacobs, in 1905. That union produced two sons, as shown in the tree. See the section of this document on the Belle Sorem family for more information.

Sarah Luella Stangeland apparently was married to Donald Hamann, but I could find no further information about that. In 1925, in Luverne, Minnesota, she married Louis Rolf Aasby (1892-1980), son of Hans and Helga (Olson) Aasby of Hyde County, South Dakota. She attended Augustana College at Canton, South Dakota, and taught school in rural Minnesota and South Dakota schools for 7-1/2 years. She was a member of Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Mary Circle, and Just Us Club. When she died in 1979 in Highmore, South Dakota, she was survived by her husband of Highmore; a daughter, Mrs. Joe (Lavon) Mize of Holabird; two sons, Leroy H. of Howes, S.D., and Ardis of Holabird; 11 grandchildren, one great grandchild; three brothers, Leonard of Ponco City, Oklahoma, Melvin of Worthington, Minnesota, and Owen of Luverne, Minnesota. Preceded in death by her parents, her step-mother, two sisters, three brothers, and two infant grandsons. [I cannot figure out who the THREE brothers might be!]

(Nels) Leonard Stangeland was born in Nobles County, Minnesota, in 1898. He attended a country school in Lismore Township and later attended Augustana College in Canton, South Dakota. After working the wheat harvest in Canada and Kansas, he came south to Ponco City, Oklahoma in 1922 where he found a job working for the Marland Oil Company. In 1924 he married Renas Wilson, and they had five children: Wilma, Shirley Ann, Ruth M., (Leonard) Alan, and Gordon. They celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary only a few months before Renas died in July of 1995. Leonard worked at the Midwest Creamery for eighteen and a half years. He then went to work for Continental Oil Company where he worked in the compound house and light oil pump house. He retired from there in 1963. Leonard was very active in the Wesleyan Methodist Church and helped to build the present Brookfield Avenue Wesleyan Church. He is buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Ponca City, Oklahoma.

I have no further information on Arthur.

There is a large burial plot at the Lutheran Cemetery in Adrian, Minnesota, where Thor Jacobs, Anna Stangeland, Nora Stangeland, Belle Sorem Jacobs Stangeland, Nels Stangeland, and Thorabelle Jacobs Martel are all buried. Thor was originally buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Ransom Township, according to his obituary.

Miscellaneous Articles from Worthington, MN

From Nobles County Historical Museum (at the Worthington Library)

[Written in September 1986]

Melvin Stangeland was born in 1906 on the family farm in section 26 of Leota township near Lismore, Minnesota. His parents, Nils Stangeland, who was born in Norway, and Belle Sorem Stangeland, were among the earliest settlers in this area and the small Stangeland house now in Pioneer Village was the first dwelling house on this farm. Melvin and his wife, V. Blanche Stangeland, farmed until 1937 when they came to Worthington. Melvin first worked as a carpenter and later became a builder of his own houses, he developed what is now Stangeland Addition and also built other houses in the surrounding area. The Stangelands have six children. Blanche Stangeland is now deceased.

A brief obituary in the Nobles County Times, in March 1936:

Sorem, Mrs. Nels M., age 81, pioneer of Worthington, died Friday. Funeral services were held Tuesday and burial was made in Worthington Cemetery.

This appeared in both the Worthington Advance on Dec 29, 1898, and the Minnesota Signal (Bigelow) on Friday Dec 23, 1898:

[This was Lester R. Sorem]

The little boy born December 19th, 1898, to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sorem, residing on the Mike Wagner farm, in Ransom township, was suddenly taken sick and died last Sunday evening, before medical assistance could reach them. The funeral will be held today, Friday, at 11 o'clock.

This appeared in the "Ransom" column of the Worthington Advance on Jan 5, 1899:

On Monday the 19, a little stranger, a boy, came to gladden the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sorem, and they were proud parents; but in two days the little one died, and a gloom overspread the home so recently joyous. And so it is often; joy and sorrow succeed each other like the sunshine and the rain on an April day.

[and later in the same column]

Lewis and Bessie Sorem have come home to spend the holidays. They are attending school at Jewel Junction, Iowa, but though they are well pleased with the school and the people they are among, yet they are very glad to be among their old friends for a little while.

At this writing, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Scott are still in Iowa, though they are expected home any day. On the death of their daughter's child they were telegraphed to, but as they had left the place where last heard from, the telegram did not reach them, and they were not present at the funeral.

[and later in the same column]

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Ben L. Sorem, on Thursday the 22nd a fine boy, mother and child are both well.

Miscellaneous Articles from Worthington, MN

This appeared in the Minnesota Signal (Bigelow), on Friday Nov 23, 1900:

“Ransom Riplets”

Born: Nov. 10th, 1900, a son, to Mr. and Mrs. Ben L. Sorem, all doing well and Ben as happy as a Prince. His only regret is that the boy did not arrive in time to help him with more of the corn husking.

[and later in the same column]

The schools in town seem to be running smoothly. Bessie Sorem, at the Center School, has the greatest number of scholars, having 21, and this number will be increased later.

This appeared in a supplement to the Worthington Advance-Herald on Friday Mar 19, 1909, in the "Local Intelligence" column:

Mr. and Mrs. Sorem attended the funeral of Mr. Larson at Ransom Wednesday.

[and later in the same column]

N.M. Sorem attended John Peters sale near Little Rock Monday. Mr. Peters has purchased a half section in Ransom township, about one mile north of Ransom church and will soon move there.

[and later in the same column]

Mrs. Louis Larson, of Ransom township, died Sunday afternoon from cancer, from which she had been a sufferer for two years. About a year ago she submitted to an operation which afforded temporary relief, but did not cure the malady. The funeral was held Wednesday. She leaves a husband and two daughters to mourn her demise, and the sympathy of the community is extended to the bereaved family.

[This is about Olava (Mrs. Lewis) Larsen (as is the above reference to the funeral of “Mr. Larson” — a misprint), who was the mother of Emily (Larsen) Sorem (wife of Lewis M. Sorem) and Clara (Larsen) Fremming. Misspelling of the name "Lewis" seemed to be very common, as shown in newspaper articles and census listings. Also, Larson/Larsen, Olson/Olsen, and so forth seemed to be commonly misspelled. Lewis and Olava Larsen are buried in the Ransom Lutheran (Norwegian) Cemetery, but only Olava's name appears on the gravestone.]

In the April 9 and 16, 1909 Worthington Advance-Herald, a contest was running where readers "voted" in a "popular girl" contest to win a piano. Among the names was Ellen Sorem, apparently the daughter (about 11 years old) of Ben and Nellie Sorem.

Miscellaneous Articles from Worthington, MN

Some 1900 Federal Census listings from Ransom Township (spelling and other errors are left as they were read) :

Sorem, Henry	25	Born in Norway Feb 1875	(Renter)
Tilla	23	Born in Illinois Feb 1877	
.			
.			
Sorem, Lars	61	Immigrated 1887 Born 1838	in Norway
Carrie	55	Born Nov 1844	in Norway
Anna	27	Born Apr 1873	in Norway
Severt L,	22	Born Jul 1877	in Norway
Sarah	18	Born Nov 1881	in Norway
Louis	16	Born Sep 1883	in Norway
Chris	14	Born Apr 1886	in Norway
Joseph S,	11	Jan 1889 - Born in Iowa	
.			
.			
Sorem, Mons	60		
Sarah	62		
Louis	24		
Ole	21		
Bessie	18		
Carrie	16		
.			
.			
Eide, L. T.	33		
Bertha	33		
Thomas	13		
Lettie	10		
Cora	8		
Leslie	5		
Earl	4		
Ella	1		
.			
.			
Sorem, Severt M.	33		
Annie	36		
.			
.			
Sorem, Michael	29		
Mary	27		
Evelin	3		
.			
.			
Larson, Lewis	47	Born Jan 1853	in Norway
Oliva	54	Born Apr 1846	in Norway
Emily	24	Born Feb 1876	in Minnesota
Ellen (Mother)	71	Born Dec 1828	in Norway

[Notes: Tilla Sorem was actually Tillie (husband Henry was a son of Lars H.). Carrie (wife of Lars H.) was actually Kari, but she may have used the name Carrie also. Louis (son of Lars H.) and Louis (son of Mons) both spelled their names as Lewis. Sarah Sorem (wife of Mons) was actually Siri, but she may have used the name Sarah also. L. T. Eide was Lars Theodore. Leslie Eide was actually Lester. Annie Sorem (wife of Severt M.) was actually Anna (Hovland). Evelin Sorem (daughter of Michael) was actually Evelyn. Lewis Larson was actually spelled Larsen, and Oliva was actually Olava. Ellen (Mother) was the mother of Lewis Larsen.]

Miscellaneous Articles from Worthington, MN

Some 1910 Federal Census listings from Ransom Township (spelling and other errors are left as they were read):

Sorem, Nels M.	65
Elizabeth	65
Grunstad, Daniel G.	11
Pearl E.	9
Torence G.	7
Newmen L.	4
.	
.	
Sorem, Louis M.	34
Emila	34
Marbert	18 mos.
.	
.	
Sorem, Ole	31 (single)
Sorem, Ben	36
Nelly	37
Ellen	12
Arthur	11
Melvin	9
Myrtle	7
Louise	6
Adele	4
Milton	2
Elmer	9 mos.
.	
.	
Eide, Louis	43
Bertha	43
Lettie	20
Cora	18
Lester	15
Earl	13
Ella	11
Edna	9
Maude	7
Ruth	3
Valborg (Mother)	80

[Notes: As noted elsewhere, the Grunstad children were orphans of Elizabeth (Vogen) Sorem's sister Bertha, and were raised by Nels M. and Elizabeth. Daniel G. Grunstad is actually Daniel E., and went by Ed. Newmen Grunstad is actually Neuman. Louis M. Sorem is actually Lewis M., and Emila is Emily. Ole Sorem married Lettie Eide on September 10, 1910. Louis Eide is actually Lars, and also used his initials L. T. Ella Eide eventually married Spray Kvenberg, who is buried at Worthington with the Eides. Maude Eide's name was very hard to read, and looked more like Amanda (Maude is correct). Valborg Eide was the mother of Lars T. Eide (his father was Tores).]

Miscellaneous Articles from Worthington, MN

Confirmation certificate for Thomas Theodore Eide, 1900. Same day as Carrie's (next page)!



Miscellaneous from Articles Worthington, MN

Confirmation certificate for Carrie Sorem, 1900. Apparently her actual first name was Ingeborg!



Miscellaneous from Articles Worthington, MN

Wedding certificate for Thomas Eide and Carrie Sorem, 1910. Witnessed by Ole and Lettie.



Miscellaneous from Articles Worthington, MN

[Celebration date Thursday, May 7, 1914;
Newspaper date probably May 8 or May 11.]

Golden Wedding Celebrated May 7

Mr. and Mrs. Mons Sorem Still Enjoy Fine Health

An event which has been eagerly anticipated took place in Bigelow, on May 7th, when Mr. and Mrs. Mons Sorem celebrated their golden wedding at their fine home in Bigelow, which was erected last year.

At eleven o'clock friends and relatives gathered from near and far until the large house was filled to over-flowing. At noon dinner was served in a large tent, and such a dinner! The tables groaned and the people groaned because individual capacity was so limited. The daughters of the family certainly deserve great credit for the delicious and bounteous feast they prepared. Sixty-four guests were served at once and about 85 were present.

The afternoon was given to speeches and music by various friends, with Rev. Mundahl as master of ceremonies.

Mr. and Mrs. Sorem have lived in Ransom and Bigelow for about 25 years and their friends are numbered by the large acquaintance they have made in that time. Five sons and three daughters with 23 grand-dhildren were present. Michael, the son in California was unable to come, to the disappointment of the family and also his many friends. He was greatly missed. Much reference was made by the speakers to the Godly character of the father and mother, and the results. As seen in the splendid character and citizenship of the children. Three brothers and two sisters of Mrs. Sorem were present, also other friends from Jewell, Iowa, Dawson, Adrian, Lismore and Worthington. Mr. and Mrs. Sorem received many gifts, and the friends departed wishing them many more happy anniversaries.

[I left things as they originally appeared in this article, but the only problems I saw were the misspelling (typo) of "grand-children" and a later sentence fragment. I'm not sure which newspaper this came from, but it was labeled "VOL. IV NO. 11."]

Miscellaneous Articles from Worthington, MN

This is a scan of what appears to be a Norwegian-language article about the golden wedding anniversary of Mons and Siri Sorem. The actual anniversary was Wednesday, May 6, 1914, and a celebration was held in Bigelow, Minnesota, the following day, as reported in the article on the previous page. I do not know the source of this scan, and cannot make out very much on it.

I can't tell what the first word at the top is, but "den 11te Juni, 1914" translates as "the 11th of June, 1914," so I assume that to be the date of the (unknown) newspaper from which this came. In the first sentence I can see references to the 6th of May, Bigelow, Minnesota, and Nobles county. Toward the end some of their children are mentioned: Michael, Nels, Severt, Ben, Lewis, Bessie, and Carrie.

I also cannot translate the large headline, though I am quite sure it relates to the golden anniversary. "Guld" translates as "yellow" or "gold." I apologize for the poor scan quality.

Sjerguttica den 11te Juni, 1914

Guldbryllup



Mr. og Mrs. Mons N. Sorem

Mons N. Sorem med hustru fejrede sin førtiendte bryllupsdag den 6te Mai i deres hjem i Bigelow, Minnesota, Nobeles county. Hønde og Mrs. Sorem er begge fra Otne, Norge. Mons er søn af gamle Nels og Britta Sorem, og hans hustru, datter til Sjur og Dorothea Sorem og blev bryllupsdag i Stedets kirke den 6te Mai, 1861 og pastor Christian Sommerfeldt. To dage efter bryllupsdagen skatte Mons, da han stod i kængens tjeneste, som tambur rejse bort fra sin brud. Det var det nær, da alle soldater maatte rejse ved Gardemøen; for senere ansligens at blive indfaldt af hvide Dødsen, som da var i krig med Tyskland, om Tyske og, Dødsen; men nu al alle blev der maad indfaldte. Løst: naa med 10 børn, 7 gutter og tre døtre, hvoraf 9 lever. En gut døde i All-note sin noale maaneder gammel. Deres børn som vorede, er al mest rosværdige. Gud som st. arde som jorden og har været deres store glæde og hatte i mange aar, er alle alle og har alle høet sine sønne i arbeidet af foreldrene and sønnen en gut Michael, som er i Per-retina i Modesto, California. Deres eneste søn er Nels, fød i Norge, der er nu i Bigelow, har en stor god farm. Severt, fød i Norge, en gut i Bigelow, Nabel (Mrs. Stangeland) nær Rindere, Minn. Ben, Lewis, Bessie (Mrs. Naufenes) og Carrie (Mrs. Gite) og Ole, alle der er nu i Bigelow. Det

Miscellaneous from Articles Worthington, MN

A 1922 book from Leader Publishing Company of Luverne, Minnesota. Excerpts follow.



Miscellaneous from Articles Worthington, MN

These excerpts contain names that may be of interest.



EARL A. EIDE, Worthington, Minn.
Private, unassigned, entered service
September 18, 1918, trained at Dun-
woody Institute.

JOSEPH NICHOLAS JOUL, Rush-
more, Minn.
Private, first class, 3d Pioneer Infan-
try, entered service July 22, 1918,
trained at Camp Wadsworth, departed
overseas September, 1918.



BERT A. KINSMAN, Worthington,
Minn.
Private, 12th Provisional Recruit Co.,
Engineers, entered service September
28, 1918, trained at Camp Forrest, Ga.

FRED C. KINSMAN, Worthington,
Minn.
Corporal, Ammunition Train, 6th Div.,
entered service May 1, 1918, trained
at Columbus Barracks, Ohio, and
Camp Wadsworth.



CLINTON C. MYERS, Spirit Lake,
Ia.
Private, Co. E, 313th Ammunition
Train, entered service April, 1918,
trained at Camp Dodge, departed
overseas August, 1918.

Miscellaneous from Articles Worthington, MN

These excerpts contain names that may be of interest.

The First, Second and Third
Liberty Loan Campaigns



J. Burr Ludlow Chairman

List of solicitors for each township in Nobles County, Minnesota,
with postoffice address.

RANSOM.

John Shore, Chairman, Rushmore	Nels Sorem, Bigelow
L. T. Eide, Rushmore	Ben Sorem, Bigelow
Chris Kunkel, Rushmore	Paul Huff, Rushmore
Chas. Ashbaugh, Rushmore	I. Milton, Rushmore
Henry Klessig, Bigelow	

There were also a fourth and fifth campaign, chaired by A. W. Fagerstrom. Most other names were the same.

Miscellaneous Articles from Worthington, MN

Variety of Crops Raised in West

(Michael Sorem)

Route 2, Box 350
Modesto, Calif.,
December 26, 1935

Mrs. Sorem, formerly Mary Helena Scott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Scott is a native of Ransom township. She was born at the old homestead on section 24 where she lived until her marriage. Mr. Sorem was a resident of Ransom township from 1886 to 1909.

Michael Sorem

Dear Sir:

I am complying with your request asking all former residents to write a letter for the homecoming edition of your paper.

We left Worthington on October 16, 1909, our destination being Modesto, Calif., where we have lived ever since and like the country very much. A few days after arriving here, I secured a position as salesman with a large hardware and implement company in whose employ I remained for seventeen years. Since that I have been engaged in farming, the main crops being peaches, apricots, grapes, beans, and alfalfa.

In California and particularly in Stanislaus county they produce a great variety of crops. While fruits and dairying are the two main sources of income there are thousands of acres producing grapes, melons, beans, peas, rice, cotton, almonds, English walnuts and all kinds of grain.

We have six children, all in California. Evelyn is a teacher in a private school in Los Angeles. Her husband is assistant assessor. Mabel lives in Fresno. Her husband is manager of the McFarland Best Foods Products in Fresno and Bakersfield. Edna lives in Burlingame. Her husband is a chemist and manager of a by-products company in San Francisco. Clifford is a high school teacher in Ferndale, Calif. He has taught there for seven years. Stanley is a department foreman in a big plant at Emoryville. Maryon is a freshman in Modesto Junior college.

Miscellaneous Articles from Worthington, MN

Thursday February 15, 1945

Dorothy Sorem Marries at Lutheran Church in South

The candlelighted chancel of St. Matthew's Lutheran church of Charleston, S. C., was the setting Wednesday evening, February 7, for the marriage of Lt. Dorothy E. Sorem, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Sorem, 516 Grand avenue, and Lt. Warren D. Grant of Jamaica, N. Y. The double ring ceremony was read by Chaplain Opie S. Rindahl.

Attendants were Lt. Comm. James B. Smith, USMS, and Lt. Ruth M. McPherson. Preceding the ceremony Yeoman Masie Johnson sang "O Perfect Love" accompanied by Mrs. W. F. Hiers.

The bride was graduated from the Worthington high school and received her nurse's training at the Methodist hospital school for nurses in Sioux City, Ia. She is now assigned to the U. S. hospital ship Charles A. Stafford.

Lt. Grant is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Duane K. Grant of Jamaica, from which schools he was graduated. He is attached to the officers' signal corps replacement pool, Monmouth, N. J.

Miscellaneous from Articles Worthington, MN

[Advertisement for auto sales from Arthur E. (Art) Sorem, Jackson, Minnesota.]



Presenting the New 1953 Studebaker *The new American car with the European look!*

It's almost unbelievably low! It's impressively long and wide!
It has the sleek-lined smartness of a costly foreign car
and it's right down to earth in price!



It's less than five feet high!
1953 Studebaker Starliner hard-top convertible!
Truly a new sight into the future!

The completely new, sensationally different 1953 Studebaker unquestionably is the most daring step forward of our times in automobile design.

Here, first by far in an American car, is the continental charm of Europe's most distinguished cars—an impressively long new Studebaker that is so very low most people can see over its top!

Come in and find out about the exciting new 1953 Studebaker—dramatic in verve and flair—breathtaking in beauty inside as well as outside. Find out how down to earth in price it really is.

A brand new type of Power Steering

A Studebaker exclusive—available in Commander V-8 at modest extra cost

Huge new expanses of safety glass all around

All models—Chevrolet and Commander V-8—have one piece rear windows as well as windshields

A new and safer low center of gravity

It gives the car road-right stability on sharp turns as well as curves

A. E. Sorem & Son, Inc.

Third Street

Phone 19

Jackson, Minn.

Miscellaneous Articles from Worthington, MN

Thursday April 25, 1991

REMINISCING

Farmer kept diary, articles on early agriculture



Ruth Hein

Historical columnist

WORTHINGTON – Robert Shore Sr. took a homestead claim in 1872 in Ransom Township in southern Nobles County. When he and his family came to stay in 1873, there were only two or three other homesteaders in the township.

Shore farmed, did some writing, and was postmaster for a time. The mail was brought from Bigelow to the Shore home, where there was a rack with the people's names on the compartments. Shore would sort the mail before the people came to pick it up. Family members living in Worthington now say, "So they had a lot of company, but they didn't visit over a cup of coffee. Being English, they would have served their guests tea."

Shore is one of the reasons why some of the sources at the Nobles County Historical Museum exist. These sources revealed what life was like for farmers in the area at the turn of the century.

One such source is a collection of clippings dated from 1893 to 1907, written by Robert Shore, Sr. Shore wrote for several area newspapers including the Adrian Democrat, Rushmore Enterprise, Bigelow Sentinel, and the Worthington Advance.

The clippings are pasted into several black-covered bound volumes of an annual agricultural report. There are about 480 editorials, articles, and columns.

From those clippings and from Shore's diary, Emma Shore Thorton wrote, "Heirs and Assigns Forever" (a life of Robert Shore) which is also at the museum.

Shore said that in July 1897, there was plenty of hired help available, at reasonable figures. Wages were about \$25 per month, or \$1 to \$1.25 per day.

Flax was the best paying crop in October of that year. Some got as much as 20 bushels an acre.

Hay, however, was not as prosperous. Farmers burned the straw piles because there was no market and no local use for their hay.

By July of 1898, wages were \$30 a month through haying, harvesting, and stacking. In hay-making season, some farmers were said to be "pressing [baling] and shipping." Pressing was done with a stationary baler; hay was brought from the stack to the baler.

Later that month, wheat, oats, barley, corn, flax and hay were a good crop. There had been no storms that whole season.

On Feb. 4, 1898, Shore stated that the average yield of flax in the U.S. in 1897 was 20 percent less than in 1896. The yield fell from 17,402,000 in 1896 to 10,891,000 in 1897. Flax had become a "pioneer crop," raise in the newer states and territories. In this area, linseed oil was a desirable product of flax seeds at the time.

Shore thought the westward lands opened for flax had reached their limits. If those thoughts were correct, Shore thought the price for flax would increase.

[Continued on next page]

Miscellaneous Articles from Worthington, MN

Thursday April 25, 1991

REMINISCING – continued. **Farmer kept diary, articles**

By June 9, 1898, however, there were heavy rains that Shore predicted would “be the making of timothy.” But next April, it was the first time clover was known to winter-kill in the section.

More people came to the area. At the end of May that year, three covered wagons passed through, heading north. Shore said, “The cheap lands in the northern part of the state seem to be attracting settlers from the country south of us.”

The necessary work of preparing the land continued in Ransom Township as in other parts. In June 1899, Charley Johnson (working for L.T. Eide) broke ground on section nine. “The ground is sown to flax as fast as it is broken.”

At summer’s end, August Klessig had threshed his wheat and a few oats. The wheat yield was 12 bushels, and the oats yield was 40 to 45.

In December a new crop was introduced – corn. Can we raise corn in Minnesota? Shore’s opinion was “I should say we can. Mike Thompson tells me that last spring some of his corn failed to grow. He replanted a 10-acre piece on May 25 ... it was the best corn he had. He thinks it yielded fully 60 bushels an acre.”

Near the end of October, from 90 acres of flax, Severt Sorem got about 800 bushels ... about 9 bushels per acre.

From 18 acres of wheat, J.J. Williams got almost 400 bushels of fine seed ... “the best yield of wheat in this neighborhood that I have heard of,” Shore commented.

F.T. Graves had about 45 tons of hay pressed in late January 1902, and sold it for \$4 per stack.

Severt Sorem, of Bigelow, purchased an engine and feed mill, and was grinding feed for others the winter of 1903. Shore commented that grinding near home was a convenience, “thus saving both time and horseflesh.”

Some of the side crops paid as well or better than the staple ones in 1904. Fifteen acres of clover yielded 50 bushels, and 15 acres of flax yielded 310 bushels. Another yield was 22.5 bushels of flax per acre, which was flax raised on old, broken up pasture.

The land was important to those homesteaders who farmed it; the yield was important. The crops seeded then were more varied than today’s crops.

[There may be one paragraph missing from this article – it was off the edge of the scan.]

Following are excerpts from “Rushmore Centennial, 1878-1978: ‘Days of ‘78’ ” by William Fagerness (1988), a book about the centennial of Rushmore, Minnesota. Typos and other errors are left as they appeared in the book.

From the William Fagerness book about the Rushmore, Minnesota, Centennial:

[Page references not kept; could not scan]

THE RANSOM METHODIST CHURCH

In 1877 the Ransom Union Sunday School was organized. Meetings were held in homes. In 1891 the members decided to erect a church building. The land was donated by a Mr. Beason with the understanding that if the church was ever disbanded, the land would be returned to him. This church was located 5 miles south and two miles east of Rushmore.

The church was built in 1891 and dedicated in May, 1892. It was added to the Rushmore charge of the Methodist Church. John Scott was on the building committee. He had helped two other churches build before this one. There were no pews in the Ransom Church. Wooden chairs, large and small, were used for seating. The building was heated with a "pot bellied" stove in the middle of the room. Kerosene lamps were used for lighting. A pump organ supplied the music.

The church was used continuously until 1920 when practically all the families moved to Worthington. In 1924 the building was sold and torn down. Mr. Beason no longer owned the farm from which this land was taken, so the land was sold and the money given to the conference. Hymn books and other small items were given to other congregation in need of them. The pulpit is now used in the chapel of the Garden of Memories cemetery. The small table is in the pastor's study at Worthington. The Bible and the ministers chair are in the new church. George Bents bought the building in 1924 and used the material to build the house where Joy Lupkes now lives.

[Notes:

See the 1914 Ransom Township plat map later in this document for the location of the Ransom Methodist Church.]

From the William Fagerness book about the Rushmore, Minnesota, Centennial:

[Page references not kept; could not scan]

THE METHODIST CHURCH

Nearly all of the early settlers of Rushmore were Methodists so steps were taken early to bring out the establishment of a religious society in the new town. For a time services were held in different buildings in the little village but in the fall of 1879, a church edifice was erected. A Rev. Means was chosen as pastor. The lot at the end of Main Street was donated by A.G. Seney. He also furnished the material. The known active members in founding the church were Sam Rushmore, A.F. Horst, E.L. Wemple and A.G. Seney but there were at least three more whose names cannot be recalled. A Mr. Thompson from New York designed the building but the members did the work and erected the building. The church grew slowly and as more farmers moved to the community a sister church was built in Ransom Township. The same minister served both churches. Most people drove to church in horsedrawn wagons but a few were fortunate enough to own a buggy. Nevertheless the attendance in both churches was good. Mrs. John Dahlberg recorded a story which she gave credit to Mrs. Henry Shore as relating and no doubt is true. One Sunday morning when the spring breakup came, the Ransom congregation waited for the minister to come and were about to give up when he walked in all soaking wet. He had tried to get his horse to cross the stream but he refused. So he tied the bridle rein up and let him loose. The minister waded across so consequently he arrived a very bedraggled man. While standing the water ran down his clothes but he went on and preached the gospel to his people.

By 1889 there were about 14 families in each church which was considered very good. Very early the churches started organizations such as ladies aids, missionary societies as well as young people's societies. In 1892, Ransom had their own church building. Perhaps they met in the school house previously as many churches did. One of the elders was credited with the slogan "Rush More and Ran Som" which was just that as both churches worked together to bring the word of God to the people. Union services were held on Sunday evening and were well attended. Later the Prebyterian and Methodists carried on this practice.

In the time between 1918 and 1921 people began to move 23 families left the community for Worthington, Northfield and the West. The few families that were left were not able to support the church so both churches were dissolved. Many of the Ransom people joined the church at Worthington and the town church people became Presbyterians. Later the church building was sold to the local German Lutheran Church. W.G. Babcock, Ernest Rieneke, B.F. Snyder and F.W. Sanderson were ministers who served these churches.

The editor of the Adrian Gazette wrote in the December 21, 1894 issue of the paper, "The Methodist Church which stands at the head of Thompson Avenue is yet the finest protestant church in the county." A Rev. Webster was pastor at this time.



Methodist Church

From the William Fagerness book about the Rushmore, Minnesota, Centennial:

[Page references not kept; could not scan]

THE RANSOM (NORWEGIAN) LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Ransom Norwegian Lutheran Church was organized in 1893. The records are not too clear as to the organization or method of supplying pastors. The church was served mostly by pastors of the Adrian Church. Some who served were: E. Arvick-Alias Peterson, J.H. Hanson, Paul G. Sonnack, A.C. Rykken. Some of the first families belonging were Hans Larsens, Jens Johnsons, Hans Nelsons, John Johnsons, Fred Fremming, John Olsens, Otto Johnsons, Lewis Larsens, Mons Sorems, Olaf Johnsens, Michael Thompsons, Anton Jensens, Severin Hovlands, James Falkanzens and others. The first confirmation class in late 1893 listed Bennett Henson, Ole Peter Fremming, Mons Ole Sorem, Sjur Sorem, Thomas Berdinus Thompson, Clara Larson, Engeborg Christine Larson, Enge Mashild Oppen.

The last confirmation held in the church was in 1924. The church disbanded as some of the members moved too far away to attend, those remaining joined other churches, most of them going to Adrian. The last entry of any meeting was in 1928. The building was later sold and dismantled.

The cemetery in section 20 of Ransom Township was started by the congregation and is directly across the road from where the church stood.

[Notes:

See the 1914 Ransom Township plat map later in this document for the location of the Ransom (Norwegian) Lutheran Church, and the associated cemetery.]

From the William Fagerness book about the Rushmore, Minnesota, Centennial:

[Page references not kept; could not scan]

THE RANSOM CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

(Notes from the Secretary's Book)

1895 - March 25 - O.M. Ferrin, J.E. Shore, F.T. Graves, John H. Scott, and Issac Milton met with Robert Shore in his home. The purpose of the meeting was to organize "The Ransom Cemetery Association." A certificate of organization was filed with the Nobles County Register of Deeds on March 26, 1895 by F.T. Graves as Chairman and Robert Shore as Secretary.

1895 - April 13 - All interested persons gathered to select the grounds. They voted to purchase two acres at \$50.00 per acre from J.E. Shore, and gave note for same.

Property Description: Commence at the N.E. Cornerstone of Section 22, Ransom Township, run west 76 feet to place of beginning, then south 10 rods (165 ft.), west 32 rods (528 ft.), north 10 rods (165 ft.) east 32 rods (528 ft.) to place of beginning.

Price of a lot to be \$8.00; ½ lot \$5.00 and 1 grave \$1.50.

During the first year seven lots were sold. Expense first year: \$62.55, included survey, making and registering of plat and interest,

1898 - An assessment on property owners of \$.25 for hitching posts.

1899 - Trustees given consent to erect a central gate.

1900 - Nineteen members gave by voluntary subscription, funds enough to pay note (\$95.00) which cleared Association of debt.

1906 - Made repairs on fence, all owners asked to help with same.

1915 - J.E. Shore offered to pay half the expense of fencing the Cemetery with woven wire. Offer accepted. All assisted with erection.

1925 - An assessment made on property owners for the purchase of mower and to pay hire of man to do mowing.

1937 - Assessment for general care and upkeep.

1938 - Prices raised: Lots \$12.00; ½ lot \$8.00; 2 graves \$5.00; 1 grave \$3.00.

1939 - Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Shore left a bequest of \$500.00; \$400.00 of which was invested at Worthington Federal Savings and Loan. Interest to be used for general care and upkeep. Remaining \$100.00 to apply to purchase of a new

central gate, bearing the name of the Association. (All of which was carried out).

1946 - Permanent lot markers purchased and placed.

1947 - Assessment levied for purchase of new mower.

1973 - Voted to pay higher wages for mowing. Persons hired to furnish mower, its upkeep and gas.

1974 - It was voted at the annual meeting (which is on the 3rd Wednesday in April) to again raise the price of the property. Lots \$325 00; ½ lot \$170.00; 2 graves \$90.00; 1 grave \$50.00. This would be enough to assure continued care at the time of purchase, eliminating further assessments, many have left money to the association for investment, interest to be used for general care and upkeep.

1895-1977 - Each spring on a designated date all who could gathered at the cemetery to rake, trim trees and generally ready the grounds for mowing previous to Memorial Day There have been many faithful members who have served through the years to make the Association a success.

Present board members are: Pres. Robert Shore, Worthington R2, Vice. Pres. Roy Klessig, Bigelow, Secretary Mrs. Michael Thompson (Clarice Downes), Rushmore, Treasurer S.E Rowlands, Bigelow, Trustee, Ivor Morgan, Worthington.

Board Members through the years included:

F.T. Graves	Enno Miller
Robert Shore	Mrs .J.E. Shore
John E. Shore	H.W. Shore
John H. Scott	Cole Guernsey
Issac Milton	L.A. Milton
O.M. Ferrin	Wm. Downes, Jr.
Michael Sorem	Charles Shore
W.F. Scott	G.W. Dealand
R.W. Shore	George Bristol
George Torbeck	J.E. Milton
Mrs. F.T. Graves	Nick Ketel
Mrs. G.W. Dealand	Mary Shore Voss
Lew Ketel	Henry Klessig
Mrs. John Miller	Wilbur Shore
Michael Thompson	Mrs. E.E. Edwards
Joe Bristol	John Miller

Area Schools

[Page references not kept; could not scan]

The rural school played an important role in the life of the early settlers. One of the first priorities in this new country was to give their children an education. The formation of a school district, building a school house and securing a teacher were as necessary as filing a claim for their new home. The first rural schools were not too comfortable and often school was not held in severe winter. Schools were heated by stoves burning coal although a few schools did burn hay for heat. The buildings of the fire and the cleaning of the room were the responsibilities of the teacher. Later on, electricity was added and oil stoves replaced the coal heater. Sometimes hot lunches were furnished by the parents, each taking his turn. The teacher was an important member of the community, and the Christmas program and the Picnic on the last day of school were really social gatherings of the entire community.

The following lists of teachers is not complete and we ask forgiveness for any names omitted.

There is no record of teachers from 1904 to 1917 and some of the other years are missing. Some reports were not signed, so no name was available.

District 9. Beginning with 1904 and ending 1962.

Jessie B. Rust, Jessie M. Matier, Robert M. Jenkins, Charlotte Rouse, Lillian Moss, Mildred Wilson, Ida Yeske, Esther Baird, Shirley Bassett, Ethel Mueller, Doris Nelson, Gladys Rouse, Jean Johnson, Eda Yeske, Mary Dunning, Edith Constable, Gladys Rouse, Beulah Sassens, Shirley Humphrey, Arlene Lindeman, Ann Tysver.

District 11.

Ethel Bloom, Anna Christensen, Elsie Fagerness, Ellen Soren, Lela Reynolds, Estella Davis, Florence Shelton, Leslie Mitchell, Luella Lais, Audrey James, Arlene Heffle, Berneva Fauskee, Wilbur Kopeschke, Mrs. Mabel Jensen, Mabel Kanningiesser, Lolmae Wilson, Dorothy Kramer, Marvel Heldt, Tena Scheepstra, Mrs. LeRoy Hansberger.

District 12.

C.H. Halverson, John Neyens, Ella V. Derschner, Elsie Dickerson, Alma Peterson, Fern Boyd, May S. Maher, Genevive Ross, Olive Lauber, Mildred Johnson, Dorathy Shaw, Deborah Pederson, Esther Grwett, Martha Durnam, Deulah Frakes, Mrs. M. VanEaton, Lucille Christensen, Doris Nelson, Debra Peterson, Esther Lindquist, Edna Juillior, Ethel Burke, Winnefred Berger, Mrs. Marion Henning, Laura Wormbier, Verna Lindeman, Leatha Hokeness, Pauline DeGroat, Victoria Alvine.

District 17

Sam Young, Mr. Falk, Rueben Oakes, B.B. McGinnis, Nellis C. Sell, C.H. Orrison, John Ireland, John F. Palm, Victor A. Heed, Esther Swenson, Marvin Hughes, K.C. Spaulding, Beah D. Nuesse, Walter Lynche, Kenneth Johnson, Ethel Johnson, Fern Martinsen, Beah Nuesse Lois Zevenbergen, Mrs. Lester Wight, Alice Anderson B. Kauskee, Arthur Zahorsky.

District 20

Laura A. Cain, Pearl Joul, Maudie Burnham G.I. Heiney, Fanny E. Hornfeld, Maudie Burnham, Helen Annable, Leona K. Apel, Edna Eide, Leatha Hokeness, Lorene Atwood, Evelyn Kramer, Mildred Eide, Johanna Oolman, Betty Kyper, Mrs. Cowin Long, Mrs. Ben Terhart, Anna Mae Kramer, Leatha Hokeness, Mrs. Cowin Long, Gladys Rouse, Evelyn Tischer, Mildred Tysler, Mrs. Donald Groenwald.

District 21.

Anna Yates, Marge Marty, Henrietta Sietsma, Margaret Sullivan, Alvina Haack, Winifred Daly, Bertha Rients, Irene McGuire, Margaret Leinen, Elsie J. Heger, Florence Neyens, LeRoy Atwood, Roy E. Smith, Mildren Haffield, Lewis McEldowney, Mrs. Mahel Kanningiesser, Arlie Smith, Enger Matson, Lucille Strassbury, Evelyn Fischer, Mary Filk, Lila Spiesse, Evelyn Tischer, Maxine Nordren, Amy Jacobs.

District 36.

Ida Yeske, Pearl E. Joul, Virginia E. Smith, Mabel J. Selberg, Mabel Shore, Snowell Albright, Charlotte Rouse, Mabel L. Matheson, Frances Bjornstad, Dorothy Kramer, Mrs. Cowin Long, Mrs. Louis Leitz, Zene M. Buckman, Margaret Cobwell, Mrs. Harvey Clark, Elsie Finckh, Margaret Ruhser, Muriel Stoneberg, Ruth Wilson.

District 41.

William Thom, Ethel Black, Nellie Pieper, Jessie Kerr, Gertrude Birkett, Lillian Thom, Alma Fagan, Anna Fagan, Myrtle Midboe, Ann M. Anderson, Pearl E. Joul, Ann Anderson, Florence Jueiger, Doris Paine, Emma K. Wilkenson, Edith Constable, Mary Hensen, Emma Wilkenson, Pauline Olean, Mildred Eide, Esther Wiedman, Allan Espeset, Wanda Espeset, Beulah Sassen, Alice Shore.

District 52.

Sarah A. Rowe, Nell M. Dalton, Grace Baird, Emma Wilkinson, Esther R. Aag, Lucille Lenz, Henry Johnson, Anne Keifer, Evelyn Johnson, Amanda Eberling, Lillie Fischer, Hazel Clark, Elza Borsdorf, Lucille Lenz, Emma Maidson, Mary Fischer, Amanda Eberling, Cecelia Flapp, Melba Brass, Mrs. A. Falknor, Dorothy Lourence.

District 69.

William Thom, Ida Greig, Lilia Erlandson, Regean H. Melins, Jessie M. Maltier, Lillian Moss, Lester Goeig, Grace A. Smith, George Dalton, Florence Shelton, Pauline Olson, Neva L. Folsom, Allan Espeset, Vinginia McCall, Carmen Sietsma, Charlotte Rouse, Leatha Hokeness, Loretta Klein, Leatha Johnson, Neva Folsom, Lucille Bartling, Aurelia Thier, Maxine Tursky, Charlotte Rouse, Lila Spiesse, B. Fauskee.

District 81.

Jennie E. Timmerman, Sarah Rowe Anderson, Helen Chermak, Mae Williams, Olive M. Brandt, Mary Dunning, Clarice Meier, Ardes Lebens, Maxine Erlandson, Mrs. Marion Henning, Lila Spieese, Olive Brandt, Beverly Rosenberg.

District 84.

Josephine Schellter, Margaret Lenz, Henry Johnson, Lucille Lenz, Kathlan Lohse, Cecil Pengra, Laura Rogers, Laura Wingett, Josephine Winter, Eleanor Clark, Lucille Lenz, Ardes Lebens.

District 89

Myrtle Thomson, Helen Leonard, Louise M. Lietz, Ainaee Krook, Bernard Rust, Edne M. Sliver, Beulah Baker, Helen Thom, Julane Wilson, Margaret Ullrich, Mae Williams, Irene McCall, Bertha Smith, Florence Neyens, Elleen Kunkel, Wanda Espeset, Edna Quillan, Minnie Rienstra May Kutzbach, Mrs. Ed Ullrich, Minnie Rienstra, Mrs. Geo. Lienou, Bertha Smith, Edna Juillian, Charlotte Rouse.

District 115.

Mrs. Luther Jenkins, Grace Little, Lillie Fischer, Margaret Peterson, Bertha Smith, Lillian Burnham, Evelyn Edwards, Lavon Fauikner, Loyd Doe, Dorothy Kramger, Audrey James, Ruth Davis, Louise Kruger, Mildred Peterson, Mrs. Viola Heeren, Mrs. LeRoy Hansberger, Lois Hokeness, Mildred Peterson, and Mrs. LeRoy Hansberger.

District 115 (1316) had the distinction of being the last one room rual school we built in Nobles County, and one of the last two schools to close and consolidate with a larger district.

[Notes:

Under District 11, "Ellen Soren" should actually be "Ellen Sorem." Note that there are many duplicates and suspicious spellings, along with some outright typos. These were left as in the original book.]

From the William Fagerness book about the Rushmore, Minnesota, Centennial:

[Page references not kept; could not scan]

LARS T. EIDE

The parents of Edna Eide Terhark came from the following places.

Lars, or L.T. as he was sometimes called, was born August 13, 1866 in Olen Fjelbergs Pristejeld, Norway. He came to America in 1881. He was the son of Tores E. and Valvorg (Larson) Eide. Bertha Carine Olson was born April 1, 1867 at Morris, Illinois. (Kindell County).

Lars was 15 years old when he came from Norway by boat with his 17 year old brother. He had ten cents in his pocket when he arrived in New York, and he bought a piece of custard pie and then he was broke. They got work right away and worked for a time in a lumber yard. Later he moved to Chicago, Illinois where he also worked in a lumber yard. Here he met Bertha Olson and later they were married. Four of their children were born in Illinois. They were Thomas, Lettie, Cora and Lester Eide. They all came by train to Sibley, Iowa in 1894. They bought a farm five miles south and two east of Rushmore, Minnesota and later another farm, four miles south and one east. The rest of the children were born on this first farm of 80 acres. (The other farm was 160 acres). They were Earl, Ella, Edna, Maude and Ruth.

Thomas Eide married Carrie Sorem. They moved to Phillip, SD, and after a short time came back to Rushmore, Minnesota. They bought the farm south of Rushmore that their son Floyd now lives on. They had four children Lyle, Sidney, Floyd and Mildred.

Lettie Eide married Ole Sorem and they farmed between Bigelow and Rushmore. They had two children, Daryl and Phyllis, both graduated from St. Olaf College.

Cora Eide married Jospheh Nash, they farmed north of Adrian. They had one child, Ardith. She also graduated from St. Olaf College at Northfield, Minnesota.

Lester Eide farmed south of Rushmore a number of years and was a part time auctioneer. He married Anna Pearson of Roland Iowa. Later they moved to Iowa. They have one son, Paul.

Earl Eide married Lula Beckjordan and they farmed south of Rushmore one year. They have two children, Elaine and June. Lester and Earl attended

high school in Worthington and commercial college in Sioux Falls. Earl sold gasoline lamps that replaced the old Kerosene lamps. He also liked to trap mink and foxes and would occasionally catch a skunk, that would perfume the township for days. He was also with the Prudential Insurance Company. First as an agent and then District Manager for 38 years. He retired after being with the company 44 years. He and Lester played for barn dances in the Rushmore vicinity. Lester the violin and Earl and drums. Earl also worked in the Worthington National Bank prior to enlistment World War Co. C. inf. Member of Joyce Kilmer Post Number 107 American Legion. They purchased a farm three miles south of Rushmore, and now Earl has his rented out and lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Ella Eide graduated from Worthington High School and Macalester College. She taught school a number of years. Married Spray Kvenberg, a maintenance supervisor of the Northwest District of the Milwaukee Railroad. They live in Chicago, Illinois and have one son, John.

Maude Eide graduated from Worthington High School and Mankato State Teachers College. She taught school a number of years, and while teaching in Bigelow she met and married Herbert Zierdt, who was also a teacher. They moved to International Falls and taught there. Here a daughter, Beverly was born and Maude passed away three days later.

Ruth Eide graduated from Worthington High School and Macalester College. She taught school and later married Clifford J. Benson, Ortonville, Minnesota. He was County Attorney for a number of years and also a State Senator and an attorney. Ruth is also a past matron of Eastern Star. They have one son Stephen, an airplane pilot instructor.

Lars Eide was one of the organizers of School District 92 in Ransom Township and for a number of years was road overseer in his district. He was president of the Nobles County Fair Association and also the Nobles County Picnic Association. He was the first president of the Nobles County Cooperative Oil Company at Worthington, Minnesota. They were members of the Lutheran Church south of Rushmore and all the children were confirmed.

From the William Fagerness book about the Rushmore, Minnesota, Centennial:

[Page references not kept; could not scan]



THE FLOYD EIDE FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Eide live on a farm in Ransom township. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Eide moved on this farm in 1919 and Floyd has lived on it since. Mrs. Thomas Eide was the former Carrie Sorem. In 1941 Floyd was married to Crystal Hoover, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ora Hoover of Council Bluffs, Iowa. They are the parents of five children Jerry, Karen (Mrs. Curt Shelander), Merle, Gary and Sharlene.

Jerry Eugene was born in 1943. He spent four years in the Navy Air Force and attended the University of Minnesota. He married Barbara Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Johnson of St. Paul in 1971. Barb has taught in the St. Paul schools for the past six years. Jerry is a sales representative for the Austin Hardware in Minneapolis. They have one child born in 1977. They live in St. Paul.

Karen Elaine was born in 1947. She married Curt Shelander, son of Mrs. Ray Shelander and the late Ray Shelander. They have five children Dan, Mark, Cari, Eric and Korene. Karen is a housewife and Curt is a sales representative for White Bear Dodge. They live in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota.

Merle Wesley was born in 1950. He attended Junior College for one year and a Bible college in the cities for two years. He is married to Leslie Grist, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grist of Chicago. They have one daughter, Rachel born 1976. Merle is employed by a Florist Company and has an upholstery shop in his home. They reside in Coon Rapids.

Gary Wayne was born in 1952. He married Eileen Gaiser, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gaiser in 1972. They are engaged in farming. They have two children Jennie Sue, born in 1973 and Daniel, born in 1976.

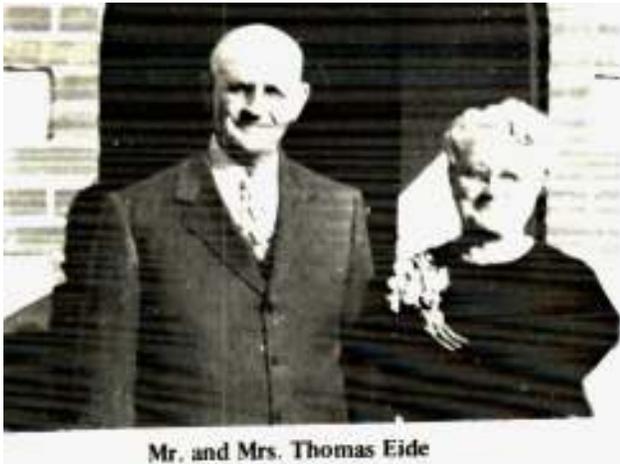
Sharlene Louise was born in 1957 and graduated from Worthington in 1976. She has been employed at the Worthington Hospital for the past two years as a nurse's aid. She is now taking nurses training in Sioux Falls.

The Eide have 9 grandchildren.

[Notes:
I apologize for the low-quality picture scan. It is actually better than my first try!]

From the William Fagerness book about the Rushmore, Minnesota, Centennial:

[Page references not kept; could not scan]



THOMAS EIDE

Thomas Theodore Eide was born April 16, 1887 in Grundy County, Illinois, son of Lars T. Eide (who from Norway at about 14 years of age) and Bertha (Olson) Eide. Thomas, in 1894, came with his parents to make his home in Ransom Township, the east half of the northeast quarter of section 21.

January 19, 1910 Thomas and Carrie I. Sorem (born May 2, 1884, daughter of Muns M. Sorem and Sarah (Ostrum) Sorem) were married and made their home in Haakan County, South Dakota, where Thomas had a homestead claim. After about two years of completely drying out, they came back to Nobles County and the east half section 27, Ransom. A few years later, they rented and moved to the northwest quarter of section 14, Ransom Township. They lived there until 1945, when they moved to Rushmore, having bought the house in the southwest corner from Brinkhous. Thomas died February, 1957.

Mrs. Eide then built a house downtown, near the First Presbyterian Church. Carrie died March, 1968.

Their children were Lyle Myron, Sidney Burton (died 1965), Floyd Oliver, Mildred Luella (Mrs. Harold Mulder); also a baby boy who died at birth. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Eide were raised in the Lutheran faith, but became active members in the First Presbyterian Church at Rushmore.

[Notes:

I once again apologize for the low-quality picture scan – difficult to scan these old B&W photos from books. I am not sure about Carrie’s middle initial (“I.”) as the only places I have found a reference to it are here and in the write-up about Lyle Eide. Also her parents were Mons N. Sorem and Siri (Ostrem) Sorem. It is possible that Siri also went by an “Americanized” form of her name, Sarah.]

LYLE EIDE

Lyle Myron Eide was born Dec. 25, 1910 in Nobles County, Ransom Township, son of Thomas T. Eide and Carrie I. (Sorem) Eide. His first home was in Haakon County, SD. He moved back with his parents to Nobles County in 1911. After becoming of age (21 years), he spent four years working out for neighbors, then raised turkeys for four years on shares at home.

He bought his first car May 3, 1933 for \$220; a Ford coupe, 1930 model with 7,018 miles on it and in excellent shape. June 11, 1933, he bought gas -- 5 gallons for 67 cents, tax included.

Lyle Myron Eide and La Verne Kennedy were married March 26, 1940. La Verne was born May 23, 1913 at Villisca, Iowa, daughter of James Kennedy and Grace (Hoover) Kennedy. Her father died when she was 7 weeks old.

Lyle and La Verne moved to the northwest section 12 of Little Rock Township, which they bought at the time of marriage and have lived there to the present time. Raising swine was their largest enterprise. They plan to build a house in Rushmore, 1977. As a family they have been active members of the First Presbyterian Church in Rushmore. They have four children.

Richard Lyle born July 30, 1941, a graduate of Adrian High School, South Dakota State, Brookings and received his masters degree from Raleigh, North Carolina. He worked for Caterpillar Tractor Company in Peoria, Illinois and served two years in the armed forces. At the present time, he is a research engineer at Chelsea, Michigan proving grounds for Chrysler Corporation. He married Joyce Mae Jensen from Tyler, Minnesota January 1, 1966.

...
(Continued on next page.)

From the William Fagerness book about the Rushmore, Minnesota, Centennial:

[Page references not kept; could not scan]



LYLE EIDE (continued from previous page)

They have three children Rebecca Lynn, born September 28, 1968, Nathan Richard, born December 18, 1971, and Daniel Richard, born February 17, 1977.

Kermit Maurice born December 28, 1945, a graduate of Adrian High School, South Dakota State, after which he served two years in the Peace Corps in Nigeria and Tanzania, Africa, teaching mathematics. He has acquired his masters in math and also principal's certification. At present, he is Secondart Supervisot of the Hopewell Valley school system in Pennington, New Jersey. He married Roberta McGregor, April 2, 1977. Roberta is a teacher in the Pennington schools.

Dennis Dean born June 7, 1948, a graduate of Adrian High School, Anderson Bible College, attended Trinity Seminary in Chicago and graduated from McCormick Seminary, Chicago in 1973. His first pastorate was at Russell, Minnesota which includes the Presbyterian and Baptist churches and he is there at the present time. He married Bonnie Lou Wallace from Mankato, Minnesota, December

28, 1968. They have two sons Matthew Paul, born October 1, 1972 and Aaron Dennis, born January 30, 1974.

Janet Joyce born July 6, 1950, a graduate of Adrian High School and Sioux Falls College. After teaching one year at Massena, Iowa, she went to the Mayo Clinic, Rochester as a research technician, where she is working at the present time. She married Dr. Ronald Jay Whitley, born March 26, 1977, who is a research fellow in the Dept. of Molecular Medicine at Mayo Clinic, coming from Summerville, Georgia.

[Notes:

Again I apologize for the low-quality picture scan. This article for some reason had a high number of typographical errors, which I once again left as they appear in the book. I am unsure of the correct spelling of the first name of Lyle's wife. In the text here it is "La Verne" while in the photo caption it is "Luverne." Other places I have seen it as "LaVerne" and the gravestone has "LAVERNE."]

From the William Fagerness book about the Rushmore, Minnesota, Centennial:

[Page references not kept; could not scan]



Nels Hokeness - Agnes Dahlberg

THE NELS HOKENESS FAMILY

Nels Hokeness was born on March 26, 1867 in Rukon, Telemarken, Norway – the fourth child of a family of ten. His parents were farming folk. Mr. Hokeness acted as shepherd to his father's flock. In the summer the women would go to a summer home in the mountains to make cheese and butter. Then would "batch" during their absence. In the fall the men would bring the butter and cheese down from the mountains either on their backs or on pack animals. Mr. Hokeness came to the United States in 1881 on a small steamship. The trip took 22 days.

They settled in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin where they engaged in dairy farming. At the age of 20 he went to Seattle and stayed two years working in logging camps, saw mills, etc. near Bellingham, Washington. He returned to Mount Horeb and stayed until 1893 when he came to Rushmore. He worked for several years before buying the farm which son, Harold now owns. He built the house and barn in 1902. He married Bessie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mons Sorem of Ransom Township on March 16, 1904. She was one of a family of nine children. She was born in July, 1881 near Morris, Illinois. Bessie attended the Academy and College at Jewell, Iowa for two years in preparation for teaching. She taught Ransom school for four years.

The Hokeness had four children:

Harold, Sylve (Mrs. Wayne Bettis), Myron and Nora (Mrs. Chris Ehlers). The Hokeness family moved to Northfield in 1918 because of education advantages and engaged in the dairy business. They returned to Rushmore in 1929 to their home which son, Harold had been managing. They retired in June 1934 and moved into Rushmore in the house that Harlan Wiertsema now owns. Both of the Hokenesses were active in church affairs.

Mrs. Hokeness died on April 16, 1960. Mr. Hokeness died on October 15, 1961.

[Notes:

Most typographical and other errors are left as in the book.]

From the William Fagerness book about the Rushmore, Minnesota, Centennial:

[Page references not kept; could not scan]

Sarah Sorem died in 1916. Mons died February 20, 1920 in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Thomas Eide.



Mons N. & Siri Ostrem Sorem

[Notes:

As before, most typographical and other errors are left as in the book. I am quite certain Mons used “N” as a middle initial (see the earlier ship manifest from his emigration). The area in Norway he came from was Sorheim (meaning “south home”) near Etne. His wife’s name was Siri Ostrem, though it is possible that she at least sometimes went by an “Americanized” first name “Sarah.” The Ostrem surname was commonly misspelled as Ostrom or Ostrum. Their second son was Severt. Their first daughter was Belle. The town in Iowa where they moved to in 1909 was Jewell, or Jewell Junction.]

MONS M. SOREM

Mons M. Sorem was born May 12, 1840 at Sorkeim, Norway. He married Sarah Ostrum in 1864. He left Norway April 28, 1867, by sailboat, arrived at Morris, Illinois, June 18, 1867 with their two sons, Nels and Sievert. Seven more children were born at Morris Illinois. They were Michael, Bell (Mrs. Thor Jacobs, he died and later she married Nels Stangeland), Benny, Lewis, Ole, Bessie (Mrs. Nels Hokeness), Carrie (Mrs. Thomas Eide).

Mons Sorem bought the south 1/2 section 21 of Ransom Township in 1885, all raw prairie. In 1886, he bought a small farm with buildings in Iowa and moved from Illinois and farmed the two farms for six years. In the fall of 1892 he built a house on the Ransom farm and moved there. He left the farm in 1909 and moved to Jewel, Iowa for three years, then moved to Bigelow, Minnesota.

Following are excerpts from “An Illustrated History of Nobles County Minnesota” by Arthur P. Rose (1908), a book about the centennial of Rushmore, Minnesota, and various plat maps from Nobles County for different years.

From the Arthur P. Rose book, in the section entitled "HISTORY OF NOBLES COUNTY":

Page 257:

The growth of Bigelow during the late nineties is shown by the census taken November 6, 1899, when 224 people were listed. Then it was the citizens believed the time had come for incorporation, and at an election held February 13, 1900, by a vote of 37 to 6, it was decided to assume the responsibility of municipal government. The election to choose the village's first officers was held March 14, 1900, and the machinery of the village government was started immediately after. Those who have held elective office under the village government and the years of their election are as follows:

1900 – President, W.C. Wyatt; trustees, B.I. Tripp, H.J. Ruprecht, J.A. Fialka; recorder, William Waterman; treasurer, P.C. Pratt; justices R.H. Wicks, C.M. Davis; constables, John Brink, L.A. White.

1907 – President, J.E. Salstrom; trustees, Charles E. Yates, Nels M. Sorem, W.C. Wyatt; recorder, C.F. Modisett; treasurer, A.E. Yeske.

The first census after the incorporation of Bigelow was taken in 1905, when there were 194 people living in the town. Sixty of these were born in Minnesota, 106 in other parts of the United States, and 28 were born in foreign climes. Of the foreign born six came from Germany, two from Sweden, ten from Norway, two from Canada, three from Ireland, four from England, and one from Wales.

Bigelow's first church was the Methodist, organized early in January, 1874.

Pages 257 - 258:

Bigelow Camp 4431, M.W.A., was instituted December 23, 1896, with the following charter members: Iver Anderson, David C. Bear, John E. Shore, Edgar H. Brown, Charles C. Erwin, Charles Johnson, Lewis Johnson, Fred S. Krempien, F.H.W. Kruger, Henry W. Shore, Arthur G.W. Linley, Osva E. Madison, John Pfefferle, Martin J. Scott, John R. Scott, Jr., A.H. Scott, Martin J. Scott, A.J. Strommer, Michael Sorem, Robert H. Wicks, Willis C. Wyatt. The lodge was incorporated June 30, 1902.

[Notes:

Nels M. Sorem and Michael Sorem were sons of Mons N. Sorem. For a time the Scotts and Shores were rural neighbors to them (see the Lewis M. Sorem narrative earlier in this document). The name "Martin J. Scott" was repeated above, just as in the book. Mary Scott, daughter of John H. Scott (first settler of Ransom Township, September, 1871), married Michael Sorem on December 18, 1895. Bigelow is approximately 10 miles SSW of Worthington, Minnesota, just north of the Iowa state line.]

From the Arthur P. Rose book, in the section entitled "BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY":

Pages 386 - 388:

JOHN H. SCOTT, retired farmer, residing at Worthington, has been a resident of Nobles county since the fall of 1871, making a continuous residence here equalled by only a few of the pioneers. During the greater part of this time his home was in Ransom township, but since 1900 he has retired from active life and has made his home in the county seat town.

Columbus, Bartholomew county, Ind., is the birthplace of Mr. Scott, where he was born Sept. 7, 1842. His father, Jasper H. Scott, was born at Hillsborough, Ohio, May 16, 1820, and died at Traer, Iowa, May 27, 1889. His mother, Elizabeth (Hawkins) Scott, was born at Lexington, Ky., Feb. 26, 1824; she died at Traer, Iowa, Dec. 10, 1901. Until the subject of this biography was ten years old he lived with his parents in the county of his nativity. Then the family removed to Ogle county, Ill., and that was the family home until 1858, when a residence was established in Tama county, Iowa. Thereafter until 1871, when Mr. Scott became a resident of Nobles county, Tama county was his home, although more or less time was spent away from the parental roof. He received a common school education, beginning his studies in Iowa and continuing them in Illinois and Iowa.

From the town of Buckingham (now Traer), Iowa, Mr. Scott enlisted Aug. 14, 1862, in company F, of the 28th Iowa volunteer infantry, and served a little less than three years in the war of the rebellion, being mustered out May 27, 1865. His service was in the army of the west, where he took part in the siege of Vicksburg, the siege of Jackson, and the battles of Fort Gibson, Raymond, Edward's Station, Champion Hill and a number of less important battles. On April 8, 1864, he was seriously wounded at the battle of Sabine and Cedar Cross Roads, Louisiana, and was taken prisoner. He was held a prisoner by the southern army until June 18, 1864, when he was paroled and sent to New Orleans. There he was taken to St. James hospital, where he remained three or four weeks; then he was taken to Jefferson Barracks hospital at St. Louis, where he was taken care of until about the first of January,

1865. He was then transferred to a hospital at Keokuk, Iowa, where he was a patient until the close of the war.

Upon receiving his discharge Mr. Scott returned to his old home in Tama county, Iowa, and for about a year and one-half engaged in farming. He then went to Dunlap, Iowa, and made his home with an aunt, being employed there about two years as foreman of a cattle ranch. Returning again to his Tama county home, he remained until the fall of 1871.

Hearing of the new country in southwestern Minnesota which was then being opened because of the building of the railroad in that direction, Mr. Scott decided to build himself a home in the new country. He drove up, looked the country over, and decided to remain. He first entered the county in September, 1871, before the railroad had been built this far, although the grading was then being done. He entered a soldier's homestead upon the northwest quarter of section 24 in what was later organized into Ransom township, and became one of the first settlers of that township. The first few years of his residence here were anything but encouraging. The grasshoppers came, and with them came times that tried men's souls. Mr. Scott had total crop failures two years; another two years he reaped only a partial crop. But he stayed with the country, and today is rated among the most prosperous men of the county. He remained on his Ransom township farm until 1900, and then took up his residence in Worthington, where he has since made his home. He owns one of the finest residences in Worthington and still holds considerable valuable property in Ransom.

In December, 1869, Mr. Scott was united in marriage at Buckingham, Iowa, to Sarah A. Belknap, daughter of Martin A. Belknap. To them have been born seven children, all of whom are living. They are: Nelson O., Portales, N. M.; Mary (now Mrs. Michael Sorem), Bigelow, Minn.; John R., Culbertson, Mont.; Ormanda, Ransom township; Martin J., Culbertson, Mont.; Jefferson G., Calvin, N. D.; Bessie, living at home.

(Continued on next page)

From the Arthur P. Rose book, in the section entitled "BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY":

(Continuation of John H. Scott biography)

During his residence in Iowa Mr. Scott served as assessor in 1866 and 1867; and was deputy county treasurer of Tama county in 1867 and 1868. In Ransom township he served several years as member of the board of supervisors, and was township treasurer fourteen years. The office of road overseer and other minor offices were also held by him at different times. For many years he was a member of the school board of his district in Ransom.

All his life Mr. Scott has taken an active interest in religious matters, and is now a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Worthington and holds the office of trustee of that organization. He has helped build four different churches. The first was at Buckingham (now known as Traer), Iowa; the next was the Ransom Methodist church; then the Bigelow church; and last the handsome Methodist church of Worthington. When the last named was built Mr. Scott was chairman of the building committee and also chairman of the board of trustees. The only lodge with which he affiliates is Stoddard Post No. 34, G. A. R.



JOHN H. SCOTT

Who Came to Nobles County in September, 1871, and Became the First Settler of Ransom Township.

From the Arthur P. Rose book, in the section entitled "BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY":

Page 396:

While living in Ransom township Mr. Sorem served two years as a member of the township board and was treasurer of school district No. 27 for five years. He is now clerk of district No. 27. He is a member of the Methodist church of Bigelow.

MICHAEL SOREM, of Biglow, is the proprietor of that village's only hardware store. He has been a resident of Nobles county for many years, during which time he has been engaged in farming in Ransom township and in business in Bigelow.

Michael was born in Grundy county, Ill., June 4, 1870, the son of Mons N. and Sarah (Ostrem) Sorem, now of Ransom township. Mons Sorem was born in Norway May 12, 1840, and came to the United States in June, 1867. After a nineteen years residence in Grundy county, Ill., where he was engaged in farming, he came to Nobles county and bought the south half of section 21, Ransom township, upon which he has since resided. Our subject's mother was born in Norway March 31, 1838, was married to Mr. Sorem in her native country, and is now living.

In Grundy county, Ill., Michael received a common school education. After he had come to Nobles county at the age of sixteen years he completed his education with a one year's commercial course at the Breck school, of Wilder. He resided on his father's Ransom township farm until twenty-one years of age. Then he bought the northeast quarter of section 15, Ransom, and engaged in farming for himself, which he followed until January 1, 1903. On the last named date Mr. Sorem moved to Bigelow and, in partnership with his brother, N. M. Sorem, bought the hardware store of R. H. Wicks. The brothers conducted the business as partners until Nov. 1, 1906, when our subject became sole proprietor, since which time he has conducted the business alone.

In Ransom township, on December 18, 1895, Mr. Sorem was united in marriage to Miss Mary H. Scott, who was born in Ransom township September 27, 1872, and who is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Scott, pioneer settlers of Ransom township. To this union have been born four children: Evelyn Ruth, born Dec. 6, 1896; Mabel Irene, born Feb. 24, 1901; Edna Lillian, born March 17, 1903; Clifford Michael, born June 20, 1904.

From the Arthur P. Rose book, in the section entitled "BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY":

Page 512:

LOUIS M. SOREM, Ransom township farmer, was born in Grundy county, Ill., Feb. 29, 1876 and is the son of Mons and Sarah (Ostrem) Sorem, of the same township.

In the spring of 1886 the family moved from Grundy county, Ill., to Osceola county, Iowa, two miles south of the Nobles county line, and there our subject grew to manhood. In 1885 Mons Sorem had bought a farm in Ransom township, and in the fall of 1892 the family moved onto the place and became residents of Nobles county. Louis remained on the home place until twenty-four years of age, during the last two years of which time he and his brother worked the home farm for themselves. In 1902 he rented a farm, which he conducted until the spring of 1908, when he moved onto his own farm, the southeast quarter of section 6, Ransom, which he had bought in the fall of 1906.

Mr. Sorem was married in Ransom township Feb. 19, 1902, to Emily Larson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Larson, of Ransom. Mrs. Sorem is a native of that township, having been born there Feb. 19, 1876. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sorem are members of the Lutheran church of Ransom. He is township treasurer and a director of school district No. 20, both of which offices he has held two years.

[Notes:

At the time of the writing of this book, it was common for the first name "Lewis" to be misspelled as "Louis," and also for the surname "Larsen" to be misspelled as "Larson." The same error was made on census forms (see examples earlier). The subject of this biography was in fact Lewis M. Sorem. His mother's first name was actually "Siri," but it is possible she also used the name "Sarah" as an "Americanized" version. "Emily Larson" should be "Emily Larsen," and likewise "Lewis Larson" should be "Lewis Larsen." The "brother" who farmed with Lewis Sorem was most likely his younger brother (by three years) Ole.]

From the Arthur P. Rose book, in the section entitled "BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY":

Pages 512 - 513:

STEPHEN A. COMER is an Indian Lake township farmer living one and one-half miles southwest of Round Lake village. Although not a resident of the county many years he takes a lively interest in the history of the county of his adoption.

New Jersey is Mr. Comer's native state, he having been born in Hunterdon county Jan. 15, 1856. His father was Samuel Comer, also a native of New Jersey, and a veteran of the civil war. He died soon after his muster out of service. His mother is Nancy (McNear) Comer, who is still living. She was a native of the same state as her husband. The first twenty years of the life of our subject were spent in the county of his birth. There he secured a common school education and for a time was engaged in office work.

In 1877 he started out in life for himself, going from his old home in New Jersey to Joliet, Ill. He located on a farm twelve miles west of Joliet, and ever since that date farming has been his occupation. He remained there two years and then moved to Princeton, in the same state, where he farmed for ten years. His next home was in Wright county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming for about twelve years. In the spring of 1902 he came to Nobles county and located four miles south of Rushmore. He was there three years and then moved to his present location on section 26, Indian Lake township, where he is engaged in farming the whole of the section upon which he lives.

Mr. Comer was married in 1880 at Princeton, Ill., to Mary Bodine, daughter of Isaac Bodine. Mr. and Mrs. Comer are the parents of the following children, all of whom are living: Cloyde, Mabel (now Mrs. Severt Sorem), Walter, Irvine, Edna and Elmer.

[Notes:

As stated in this biography, Stephen A. Comer's daughter Mabel married a Severt Sorem. This is NOT the Severt Sorem who was a son of Mons, but rather Severt L. Sorem, son of a Lars H. and Kari Sorem. The Lars Sorem who was a brother to Mons did immigrate to the USA at a later date, but I was unable to follow his trail. Lars H. Sorem also lived in the Worthington, Minnesota, area, and his family was apparently friends with the Comers. See the earlier obituary for Chris (Christian) Sorem, who was the son of Lars H. Sorem. It seems likely to me that Lars H. is a relative of Mons, but at this time, I do not know the connection.]

From the Arthur P. Rose book, in the section entitled "BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY":

Page 516:

NELS STANGELAND has resided on his Lismore township farm for the last twenty-two years. He is a Norwegian by birth and was born Feb. 18, 1860. His parents, Nels and Bertha (Larson) Stangeland, live in Norway.

In his native country Nels lived until he reached his majority. He then came to the United States, arriving in June, 1881, and settled in Kendall county, Ill. He farmed there five years and then came to Nobles county, and settled in Lismore township. He bought the northeast quarter of section 17 and on that place he has resided ever since.

Mr. Stangeland was married in February, 1894, to Miss Anna L. Johnson, a native of Illinois and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lars Johnson. To them were born four children, of whom the following three still live: Sarah, Leonard and Arthur. Mrs. Stangeland died in March, 1903. Mr. Stangeland's second marriage occurred Feb. 19, 1905, when he wedded Mrs. Belle Jacobs, of Ransom township, to whom one child has been born, Melvin. She was born in Grundy county, Ill., in 1872, and moved to Osceola county, Iowa, in 1886, where she resided with her parents. In 1892 she moved to Nobles county, and in 1895 married Thos. Jacobs, who died Feb. 28, 1896, to whom was born one child -- Tharva. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

[Notes:

It was not mentioned in this biography that the non-surviving child Nels had with his first wife was Nora. His second wife, Belle Sorem Jacobs, was a daughter of Mons and Siri Sorem. Belle's first husband's name was Thor, not Thos. (Thomas), Jacobs, and their daughter's name was Thorabelle (or Thora Belle), not Tharva. Nels and Belle also later (after the writing of this book) had a second son, Owen.]

From the Arthur P. Rose book, in the section entitled "BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY":

Page 526:

BEN L. SOREM, Ransom township farmer, is a son of Mons and Sarah (Ostrom) Sorem, of the same township. He was born in Grundy county, Ill., April 16, 1874, and made his home there twelve years. The family moved to Osceola county, Iowa, in 1886, and in December, 1891, to Ransom township.

Ben lived on his father's farm until 1896, when he began farming for himself on rented land in Ransom. In 1904, he bought his present farm -- the northwest quarter of section 26 -- and since 1905 has been engaged in farming it. He has taken an active interest in the affairs of the community in which he lives and has held several offices of trust. He is now one of the supervisors of Ransom township, which office he has held four years.

Mr. Sorem was married in Ransom township Sept. 9, 1896, to Nellie E. Milton, daughter of Isaac Milton, of Ransom. She was born in Wisconsin Dec. 16, 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Sorem are members of the Methodist church at Ransom.

[Notes:

Ben's mother's maiden name (Ostrem) was often misspelled as in this biography, Ostrom. And, of course, her first name was actually Siri. I found so many places where she was referred to as Sarah that I have to wonder if she did not also use that name.]

From the Arthur P. Rose book, in the section entitled "BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY":

Pages 606 - 607:

NELS H. HOKENESS is a Dewald township farmer residing a short distance south of Rushmore. He was born near the city of Telemarken, Norway, March 29, 1868. His father, Hans Hokeness, born in September, 1837, and his mother, Margaret (Hokeness) Hokeness, born in July 1837, now reside in Dane county, Wis.

The subject of this biography lived in his native country until 13 years of age, and then came to the United States with his parents and located in Dane county, Wis. There Nels completed his education, which had begun in Norway, and worked on his father's farm. In 1891 he came to Nobles county and for many years was engaged in farm work in all parts of the county, working for wages. The year after his arrival here he purchased the northwest quarter of section 32, Dewald, his present home. For several years he leased the land, but in 1899 he commenced farming it for himself. After his marriage, which occurred March 14, 1904, he took up his residence on the farm, and that has been his home since.

Mrs. Hokeness was formerly Miss Bessie Sorem, daughter of Mons Sorem of Ransom township. She was born in Illinois July 31, 1881. To Mr. and Mrs. Hokeness have been born two children: Harold Merle, born Sept. 4, 1905; Sylve Margaret, born Dec. 26, 1906. They also have an adopted son, Clarence, taken from the state school.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hokeness are members of the Lutheran church of Ransom township.

Mrs. Hokeness graduated from the Jewel Lutheran college in 1900 and afterwards taught in Ransom Central school nearly 4 years.

[Notes:

This biography seems to be very accurate ... except that the name of the college where Bessie Sorem Hokeness went was Jewell Lutheran College. It was located in Jewell Junction, Iowa, now simply called Jewell, and existed from April 1893 until June 1924.

Here is a bit of interesting information about that tiny school.

In 1894 there were 30 students enrolled at the college. The cost for a student to attend a ten-week term was \$27.50, which included room, board, tuition, and books.

In 1895 the college enrollment was 39 students. The Stanhope Saturday Mail in 1895 urged the people of Jewell to open their homes to provide each student with comfortable living quarters.

In 1902, the college constructed a two-story ladies' dormitory just west and south of the college building. The men continued to be housed on the third floor of the main building. Tragically, two young men lost their lives when the main building burned to the ground on Dec. 2, 1903. The financial loss to the college was \$22,000. College officials announced that classes would be held in the ladies' dormitory until a new structure could be built. Completed in 1904, it was a two-story building that had classrooms on the first and second floors.

The college continued operation until May 24, 1924, when the final commencement of Jewell Lutheran College was held. Only seven students graduated that year. According to records stored at St. Olaf College (Northfield, Minnesota), 4,236 students attended Jewell Lutheran College during its 31-year history.

On June 19, 1924, a mass meeting was called for July 8th at the college in an effort to save the school, but alas, it was not to be, and the buildings were turned over to the local school district.]

From the Arthur P. Rose book, in the section entitled "BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY":

Page 626:

[Notes:

Severt's mother's maiden name (Ostrem) was often misspelled as Ostrom, but here there is a different misspelling: Ostram.]

SEVERT M. SOREM, of Ransom township, is a son of Mons N. and Sarah (Ostram) Sorem, also residents of Ransom township. Both parents were born in Norway, the father in May, 1840, and the mother in 1836. They were married in their native land and came to the United States in 1867.

Severt was one of a family of six sons and three daughters born to these parents. His birth occurred in Norway on Sept. 30, 1866, only a few months before the family emigrated to America. The first home in the new world was made in Grundy county, Ill., where for nineteen years the subject of this sketch resided on his father's farm and attended school. In 1885 the Sorems purchased the south half of section 21, Ransom township, then unimproved land. The next year they came west and located in Osceola county, Iowa – just across the state line from Ransom township, having also purchased a farm there. On the Iowa farm Severt Sorem lived six years, and then, in 1894, he bought the south half of the southwest quarter of section 16, Ransom, erected buildings thereon, and farmed the place three years. Disposing of that property, he bought the east half of section 9, built upon and otherwise improved the place, and made his home there two years. He then traded his property for western land, moved to the village of Bigelow, and for two years was engaged in buying stock and running a feed mill. During the next three years he farmed on rented land on Section 19. In 1906 he bought the farm upon which he has since resided -- the northwest quarter of section 12, Ransom township

Mr. Sorem was married in Hamilton county, Iowa, Dec. 22, 1896, to Miss Anna Hovland, a native of Norway and the daughter of Edling and Gurd (Ostebo) Hovland. Mrs. Sorem came to the United States in 1894, and prior to her marriage resided in Story county, Iowa. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sorem are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Ransom.

From the Arthur P. Rose book, in the section entitled "BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY":

Pages 636 - 637:

LARS T. EIDE is a Ransom township farmer, having resided continuously in the county since 1888. He was born in Norway Aug. 13, 1866, where he lived on his father's farm and attended school until fourteen years of age. He is the son of the late Tores E. Eide and Valvorg (Larson) Eide, both of whom are native Norwegians. They both came to the United States in 1882 and located in Illinois, where he farmed until four or five years ago, when he died. Mrs. Eide is residing with a son at Goldfield, Iowa. Lars is the fifth in age of a family of eight boys, three of whom are dead. Those living are: Elling, of Chicago; Osmond, of Goldfield, Iowa; Thomas, of South Dakota; Lars T., of Nobles county, Minn., and Sam, also of Nobles county.

In the fall of 1881 the subject of this sketch emigrated to the United States and located in Morris, Grundy county, Ill., where he worked on farms for two or three years, and then he rented a place and farmed it until 1888. In that year he came to Nobles county and bought the east half of the northeast quarter of section 21, Ransom township, and returned to Illinois and worked two years in a lumber yard in Joliet, and on a farm about three years. In 1894 he moved to his farm in Nobles county and began the work of improving the place and making it habitable and productive. Ten years ago he bought the southwest quarter on section 9, Ransom township, and this place he also farms with other lands he rents.

Mr. Eide was married in Coal City, Ill., in October, 1886, to Bertha Olson, a native of Illinois, and the daughter of Thos. Olson. They are the parents of nine children -- Thomas, Lettie, Cora, Lester, Earl, Ella, Edna, Maud and Ruth.

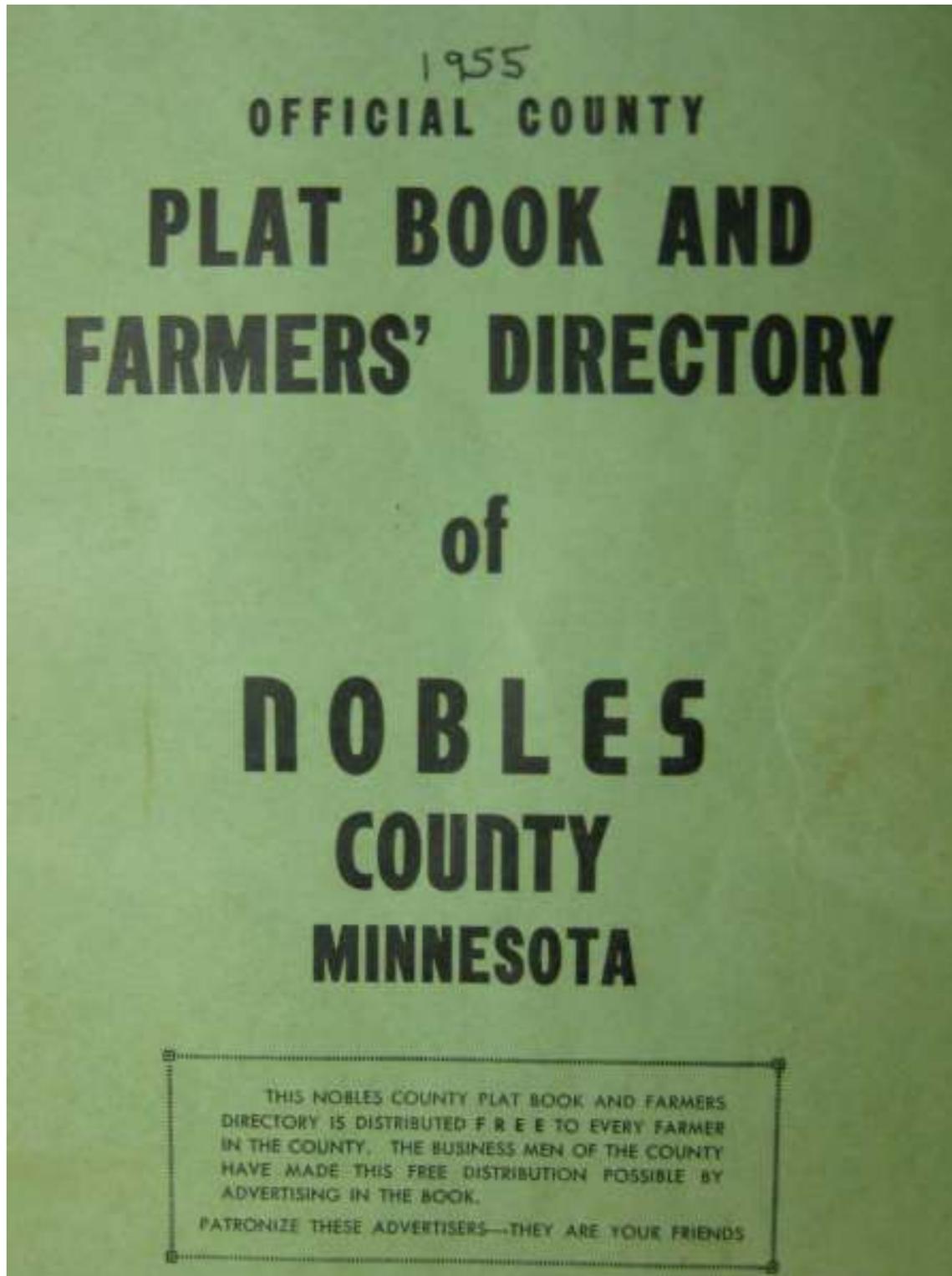
Mr. Eide has been a member of the school board since district No. 92 was organized, he and Mons Sorem and Robert Shore being the organizers of the district, Mr. Eide circulating the petition. He was also road overseer for a number of years in his district. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Ransom.

[Notes:

The Eide family is of special interest concerning the Sorem family genealogy because two of Lars Eide's children married two of Mons Sorem's children. Thomas Eide married Carrie Sorem on January 19, 1910, and Ole Sorem married Lettie Eide on September 10, 1910. We have always referred to the children from these two unions as "double cousins."]

Plat book scans from the Worthington, MN, area

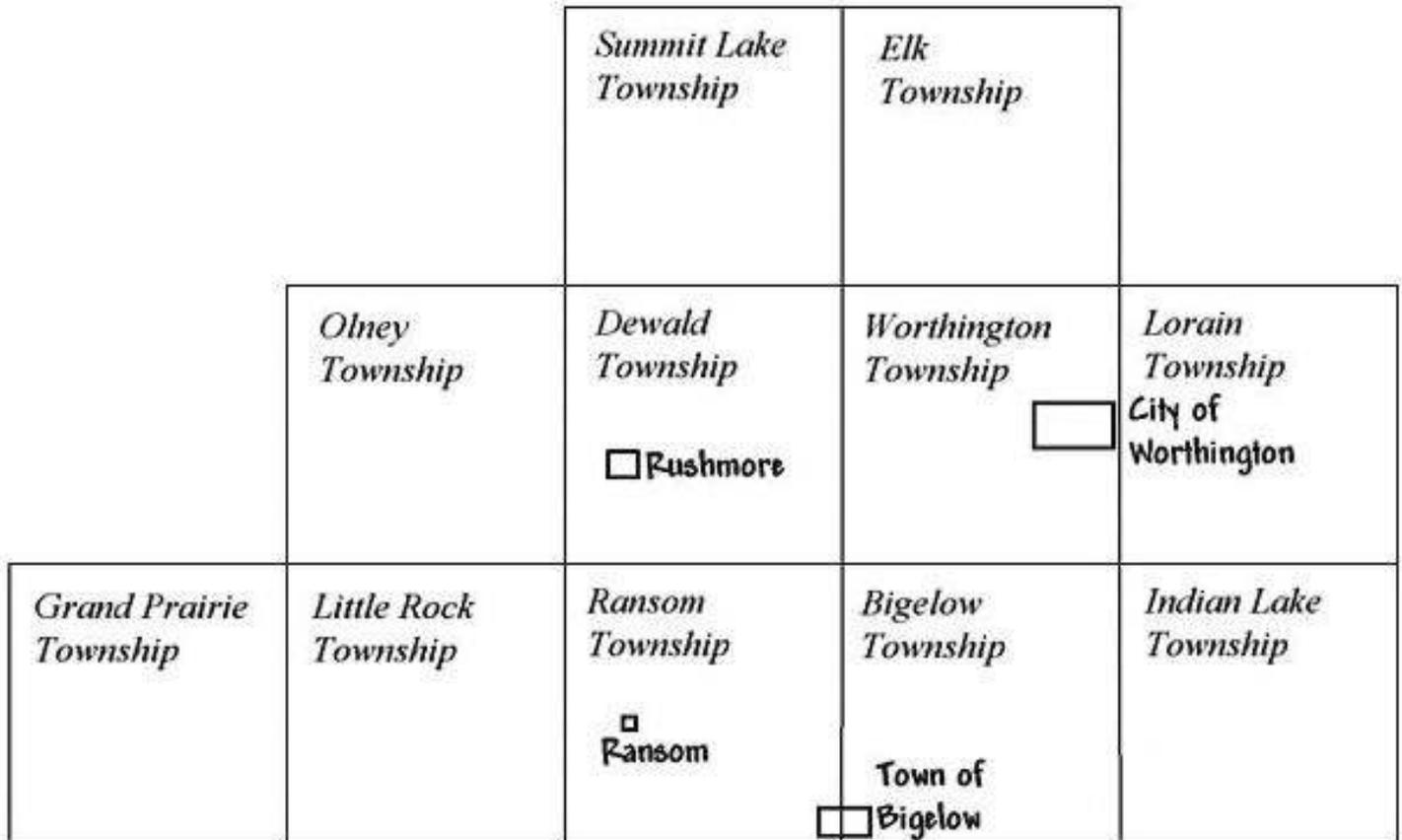
Sample cover:



Plat book scans from the Worthington, MN, area

This shows the townships in the vicinity of Worthington:

Some townships in Nobles County, Minnesota



- - - - - **State of Iowa** - - - - -

Most of the history of the Mons Sorem family involves the townships of Ransom, Dewald, Worthington, and Bigelow. Surrounding areas are shown for reference.

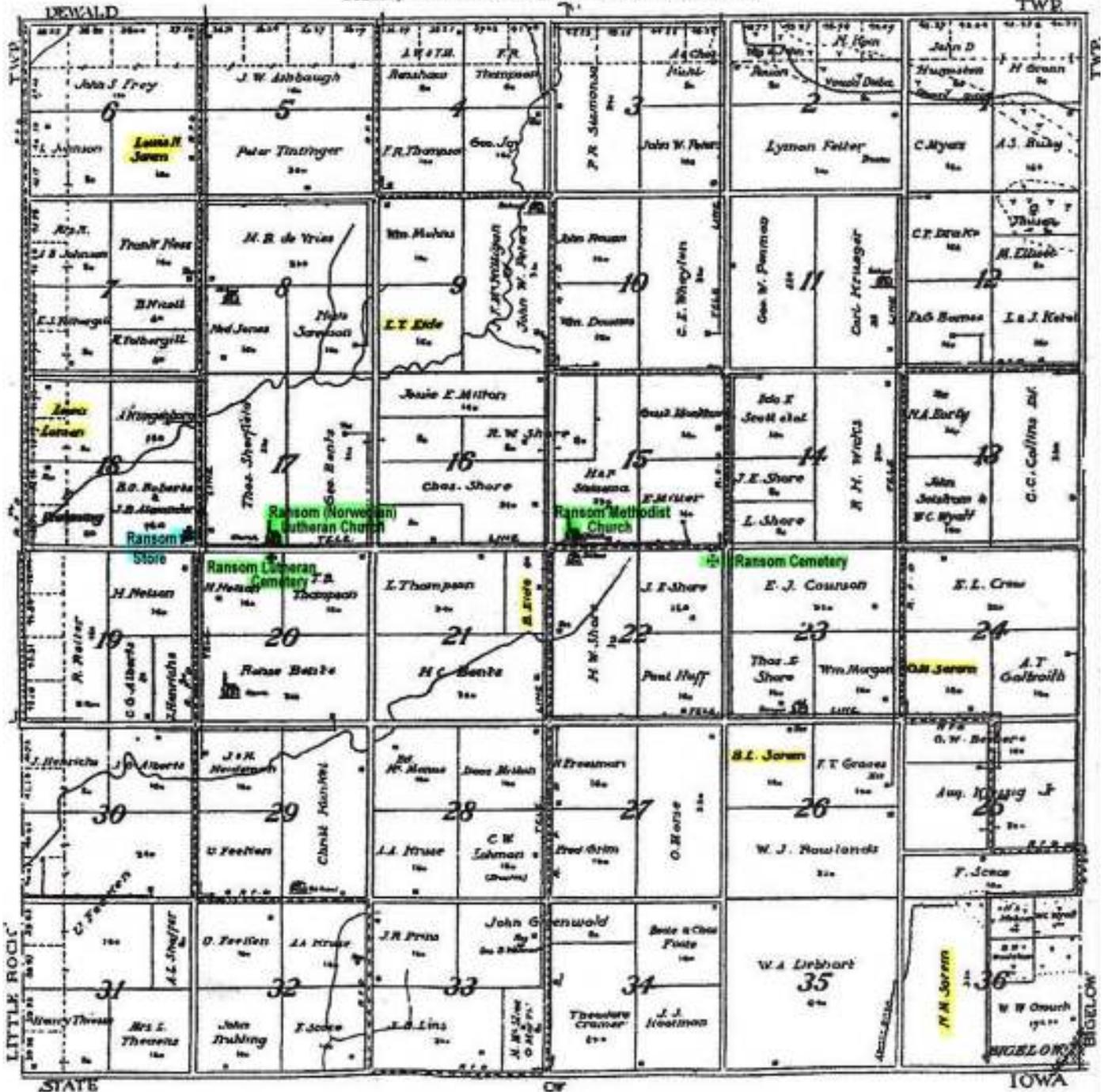
Following are township plat scans from 1914, 1930, 1951, and 1993. Some names of interest are highlighted, but these plat books were originally hand-scribed and the copies are not the clearest.

Plat book scans from the Worthington, MN, area



1914

Township 101 North, Range 41 West of the 5th P. M.



Plat book scans from the Worthington, MN, area



1914

Township 102 North, Range 41 West of the 5th P. M.



Plat book scans from the Worthington, MN, area



Scale 2 inches to 1 mile

1914

Township 101 North, Range 42 West of the 5th P. M.

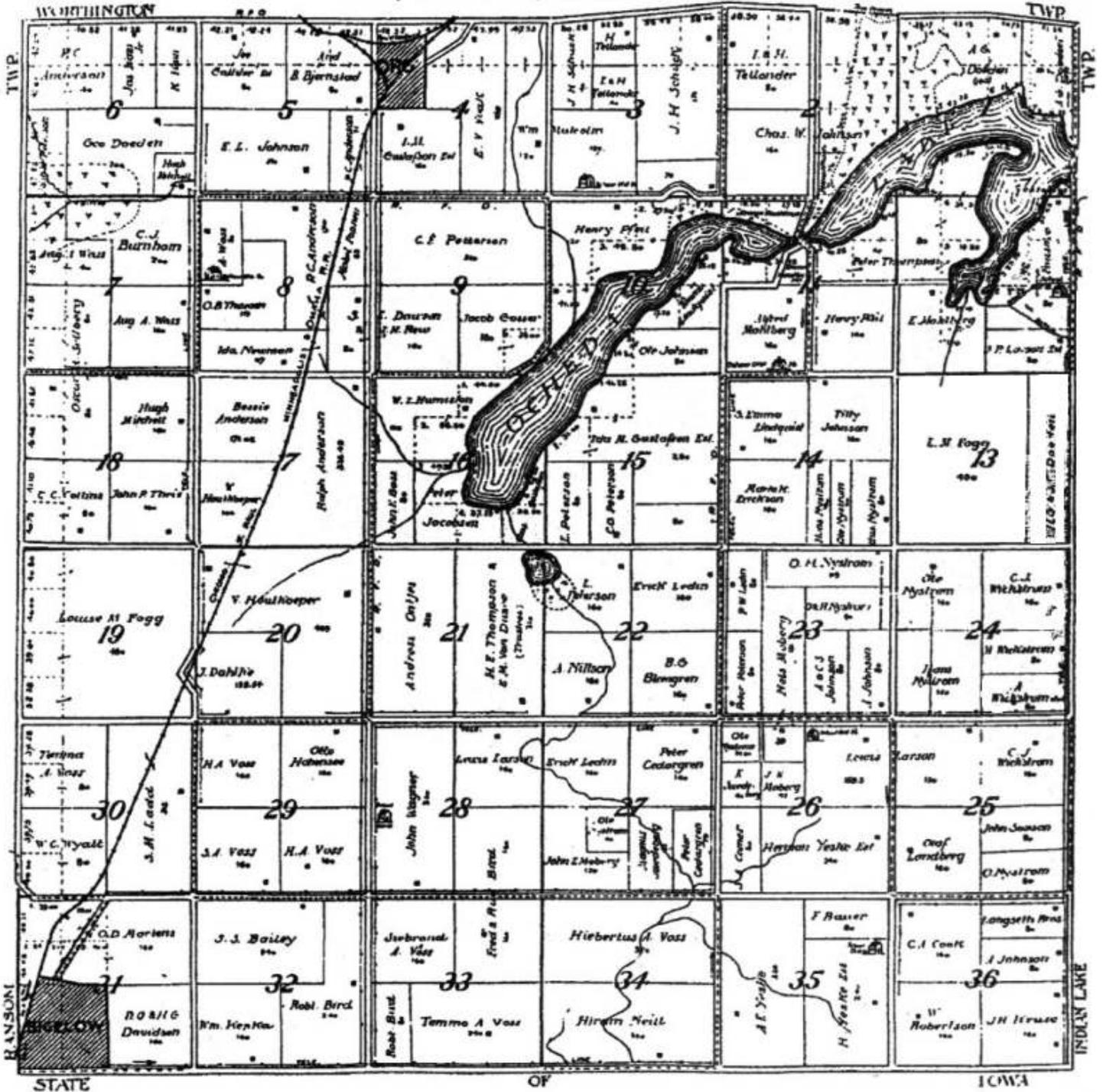


Plat book scans from the Worthington, MN, area



1914

Township 101 North, Range 40 West of the 5th P. M.



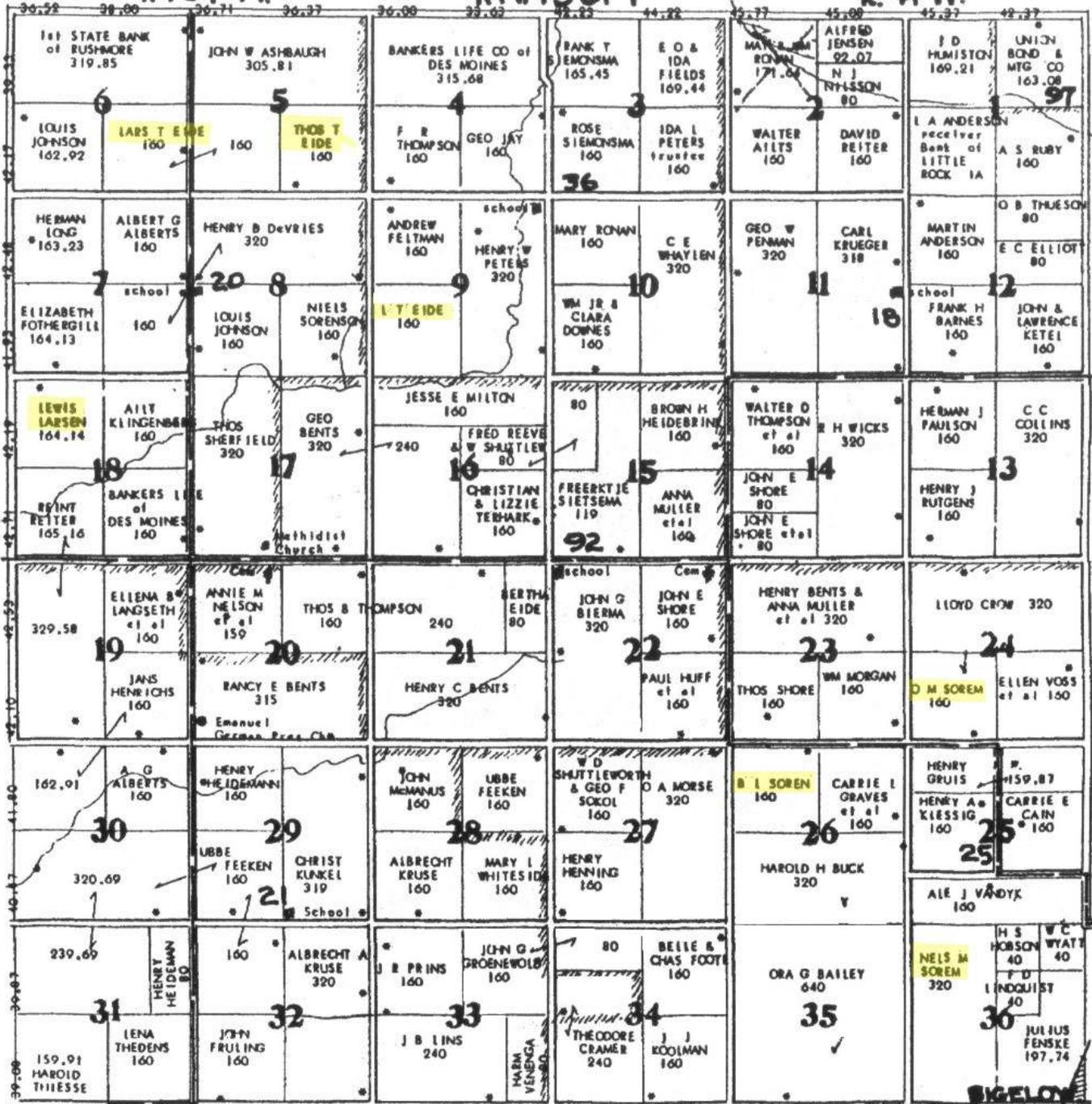
Plat book scans from the Worthington, MN, area

1930

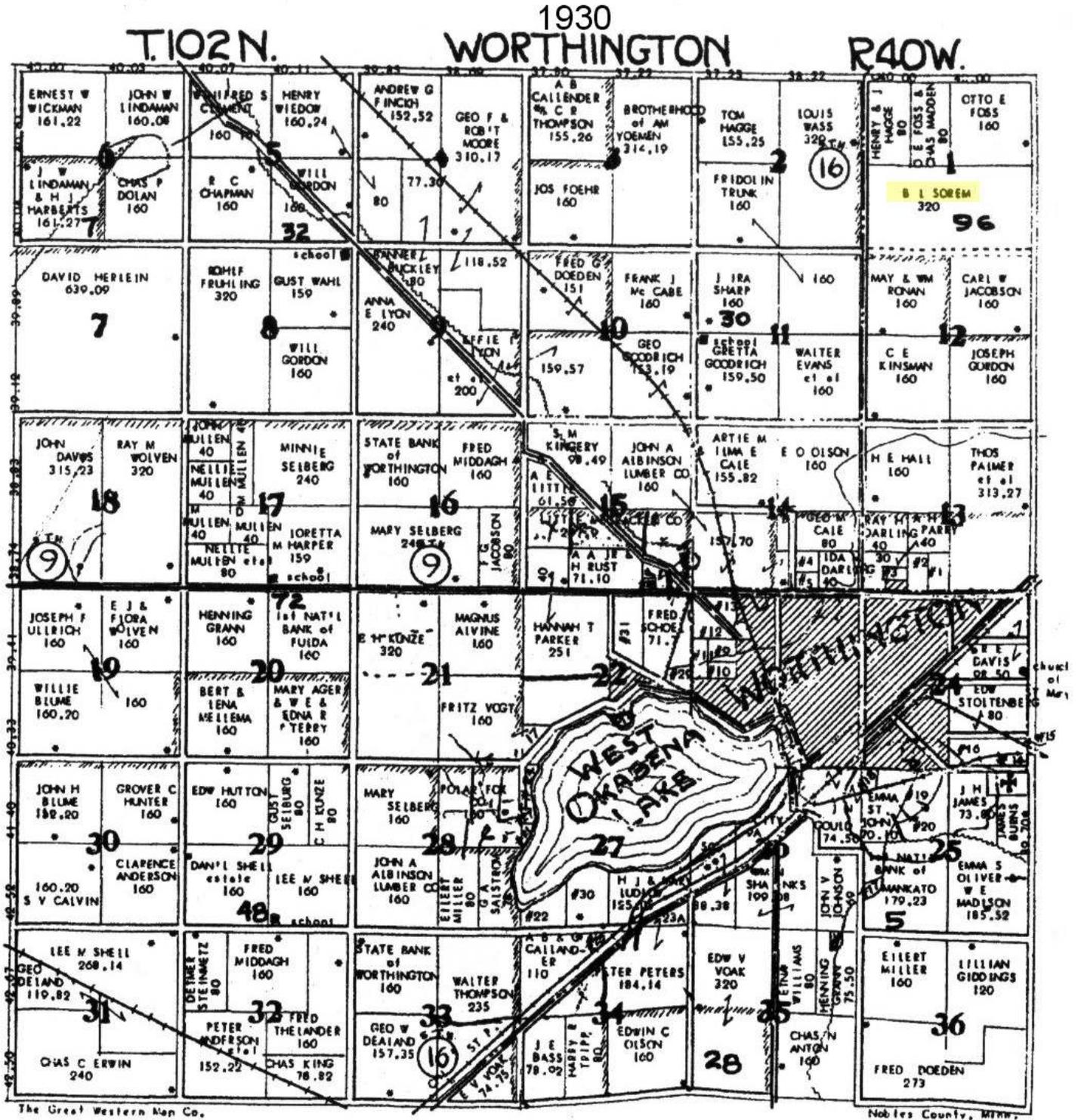
T.101 N.

RANSOM

R.41W.



Plat book scans from the Worthington, MN, area



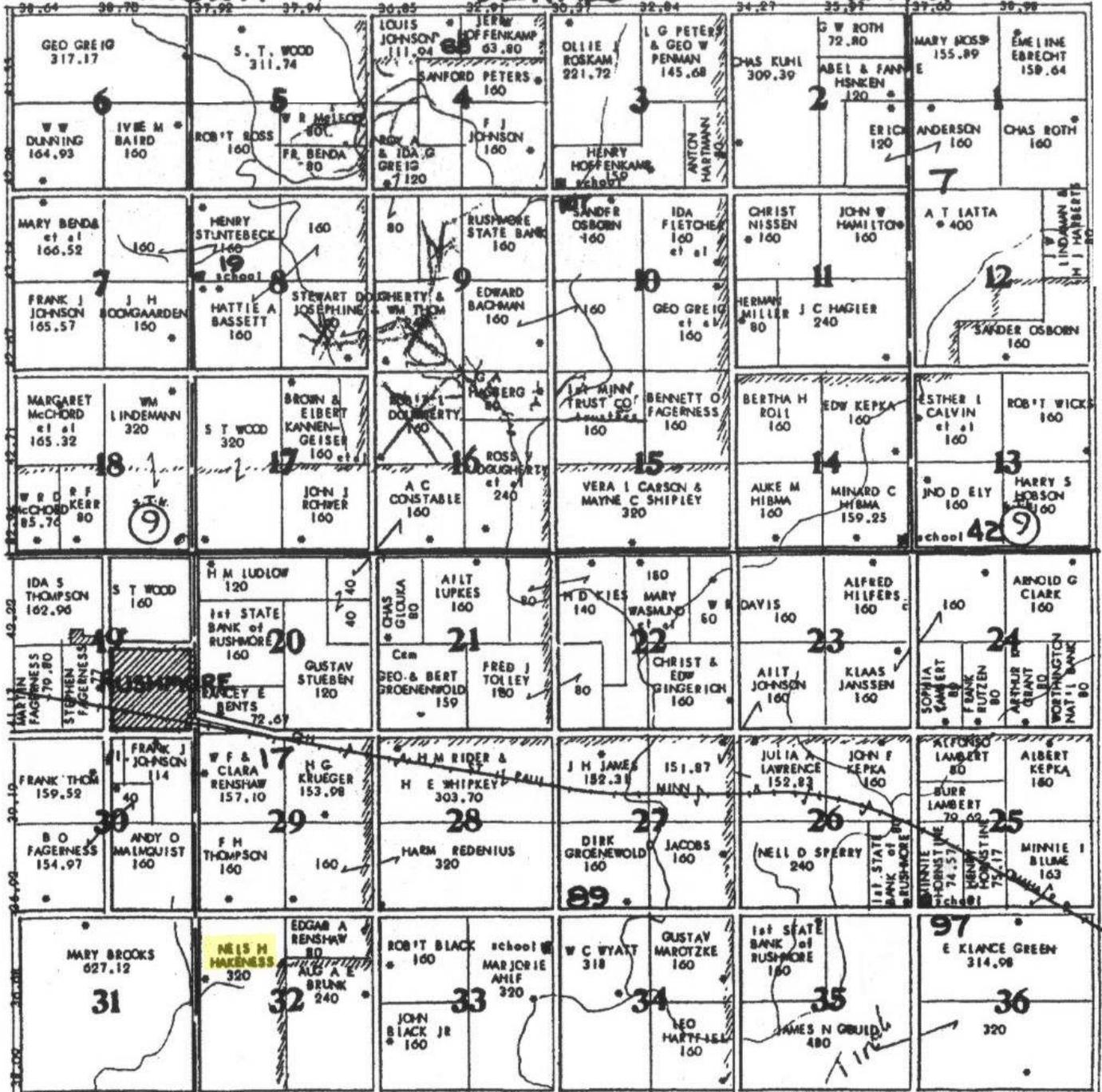
Plat book scans from the Worthington, MN, area

1930

T.102 N

DEWALD

R.41 W

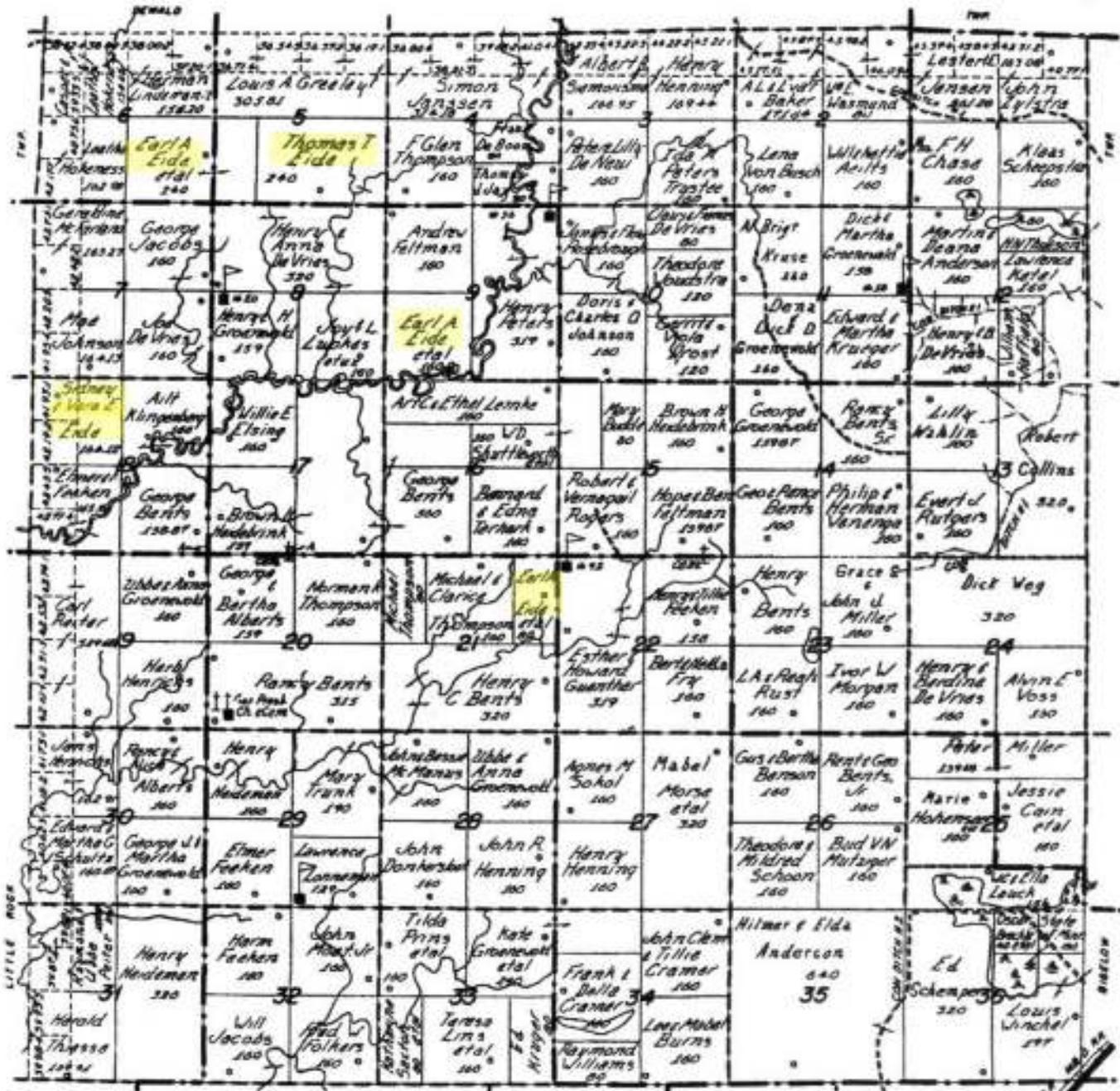


Plat book scans from the Worthington, MN, area

1951

RANSOM

TOWNSHIP 101 N RANGE 41 W

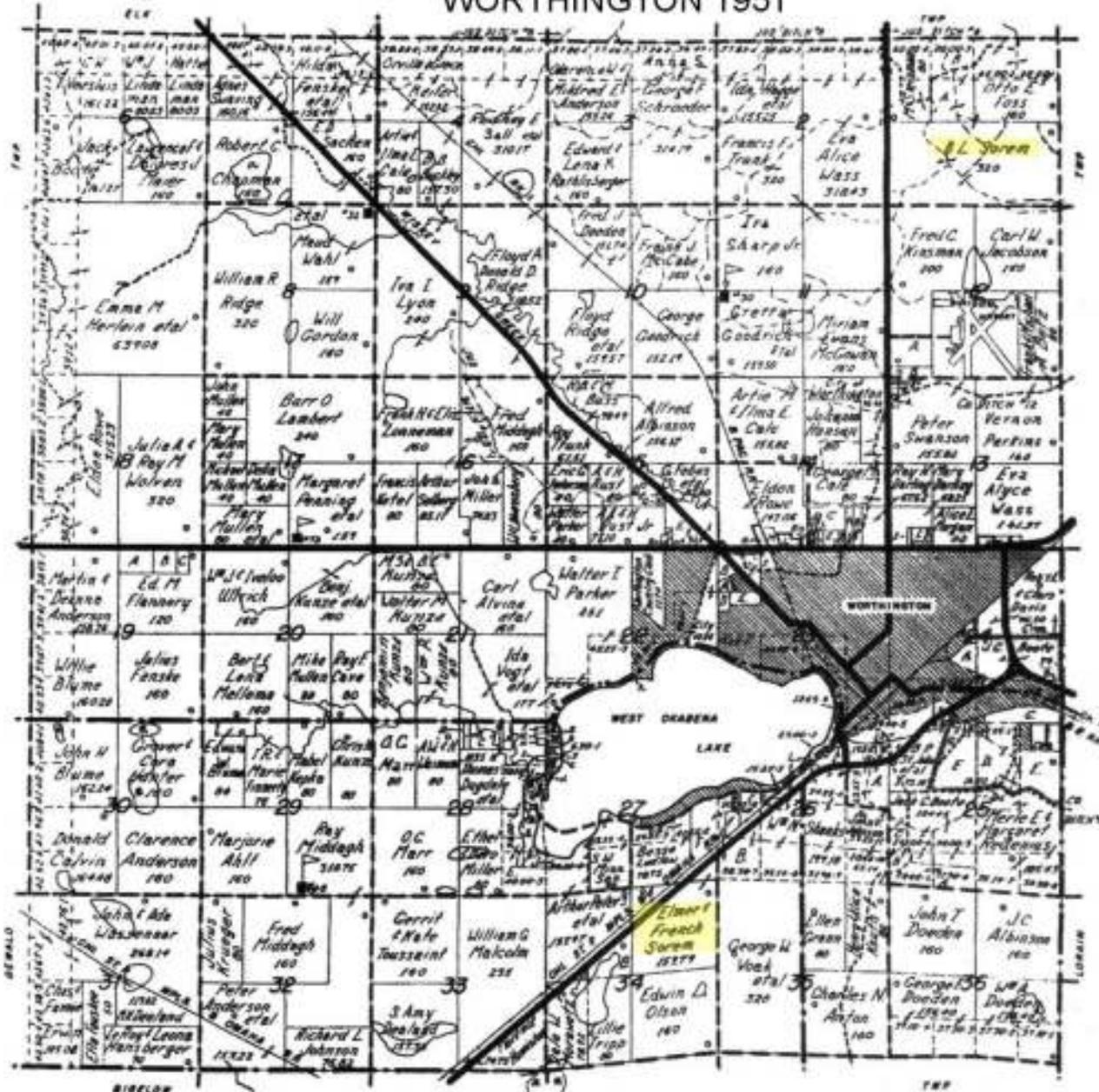


OF SMALL TRACT OWNERS

1951

Plat book scans from the Worthington, MN, area

TOWNSHIP 102 N RANGE 40 W
WORTHINGTON 1951



SMALL TRACT OWNERS

NO	ACRES	NO	ACRES	NO	ACRES	NO	ACRES
1	1.0	14	1.0	28	1.0	42	1.0
2	1.0	15	1.0	29	1.0	43	1.0
3	1.0	16	1.0	30	1.0	44	1.0
4	1.0	17	1.0	31	1.0	45	1.0
5	1.0	18	1.0	32	1.0	46	1.0
6	1.0	19	1.0	33	1.0	47	1.0
7	1.0	20	1.0	34	1.0	48	1.0
8	1.0	21	1.0	35	1.0	49	1.0
9	1.0	22	1.0	36	1.0	50	1.0
10	1.0	23	1.0	37	1.0	51	1.0
11	1.0	24	1.0	38	1.0	52	1.0
12	1.0	25	1.0	39	1.0	53	1.0
13	1.0	26	1.0	40	1.0	54	1.0
14	1.0	27	1.0	41	1.0	55	1.0
15	1.0	28	1.0	42	1.0	56	1.0
16	1.0	29	1.0	43	1.0	57	1.0
17	1.0	30	1.0	44	1.0	58	1.0
18	1.0	31	1.0	45	1.0	59	1.0
19	1.0	32	1.0	46	1.0	60	1.0
20	1.0	33	1.0	47	1.0	61	1.0
21	1.0	34	1.0	48	1.0	62	1.0
22	1.0	35	1.0	49	1.0	63	1.0
23	1.0	36	1.0	50	1.0	64	1.0
24	1.0	37	1.0	51	1.0	65	1.0
25	1.0	38	1.0	52	1.0	66	1.0
26	1.0	39	1.0	53	1.0	67	1.0
27	1.0	40	1.0	54	1.0	68	1.0
28	1.0	41	1.0	55	1.0	69	1.0
29	1.0	42	1.0	56	1.0	70	1.0
30	1.0	43	1.0	57	1.0	71	1.0
31	1.0	44	1.0	58	1.0	72	1.0
32	1.0	45	1.0	59	1.0	73	1.0
33	1.0	46	1.0	60	1.0	74	1.0
34	1.0	47	1.0	61	1.0	75	1.0
35	1.0	48	1.0	62	1.0	76	1.0
36	1.0	49	1.0	63	1.0	77	1.0
37	1.0	50	1.0	64	1.0	78	1.0
38	1.0	51	1.0	65	1.0	79	1.0
39	1.0	52	1.0	66	1.0	80	1.0
40	1.0	53	1.0	67	1.0	81	1.0
41	1.0	54	1.0	68	1.0	82	1.0
42	1.0	55	1.0	69	1.0	83	1.0
43	1.0	56	1.0	70	1.0	84	1.0
44	1.0	57	1.0	71	1.0	85	1.0
45	1.0	58	1.0	72	1.0	86	1.0
46	1.0	59	1.0	73	1.0	87	1.0
47	1.0	60	1.0	74	1.0	88	1.0
48	1.0	61	1.0	75	1.0	89	1.0
49	1.0	62	1.0	76	1.0	90	1.0
50	1.0	63	1.0	77	1.0	91	1.0
51	1.0	64	1.0	78	1.0	92	1.0
52	1.0	65	1.0	79	1.0	93	1.0
53	1.0	66	1.0	80	1.0	94	1.0
54	1.0	67	1.0	81	1.0	95	1.0
55	1.0	68	1.0	82	1.0	96	1.0
56	1.0	69	1.0	83	1.0	97	1.0
57	1.0	70	1.0	84	1.0	98	1.0
58	1.0	71	1.0	85	1.0	99	1.0
59	1.0	72	1.0	86	1.0	100	1.0
60	1.0	73	1.0	87	1.0		
61	1.0	74	1.0	88	1.0		
62	1.0	75	1.0	89	1.0		
63	1.0	76	1.0	90	1.0		
64	1.0	77	1.0	91	1.0		
65	1.0	78	1.0	92	1.0		
66	1.0	79	1.0	93	1.0		
67	1.0	80	1.0	94	1.0		
68	1.0	81	1.0	95	1.0		
69	1.0	82	1.0	96	1.0		
70	1.0	83	1.0	97	1.0		
71	1.0	84	1.0	98	1.0		
72	1.0	85	1.0	99	1.0		
73	1.0	86	1.0	100	1.0		

Plat book scans from the Worthington, MN, area



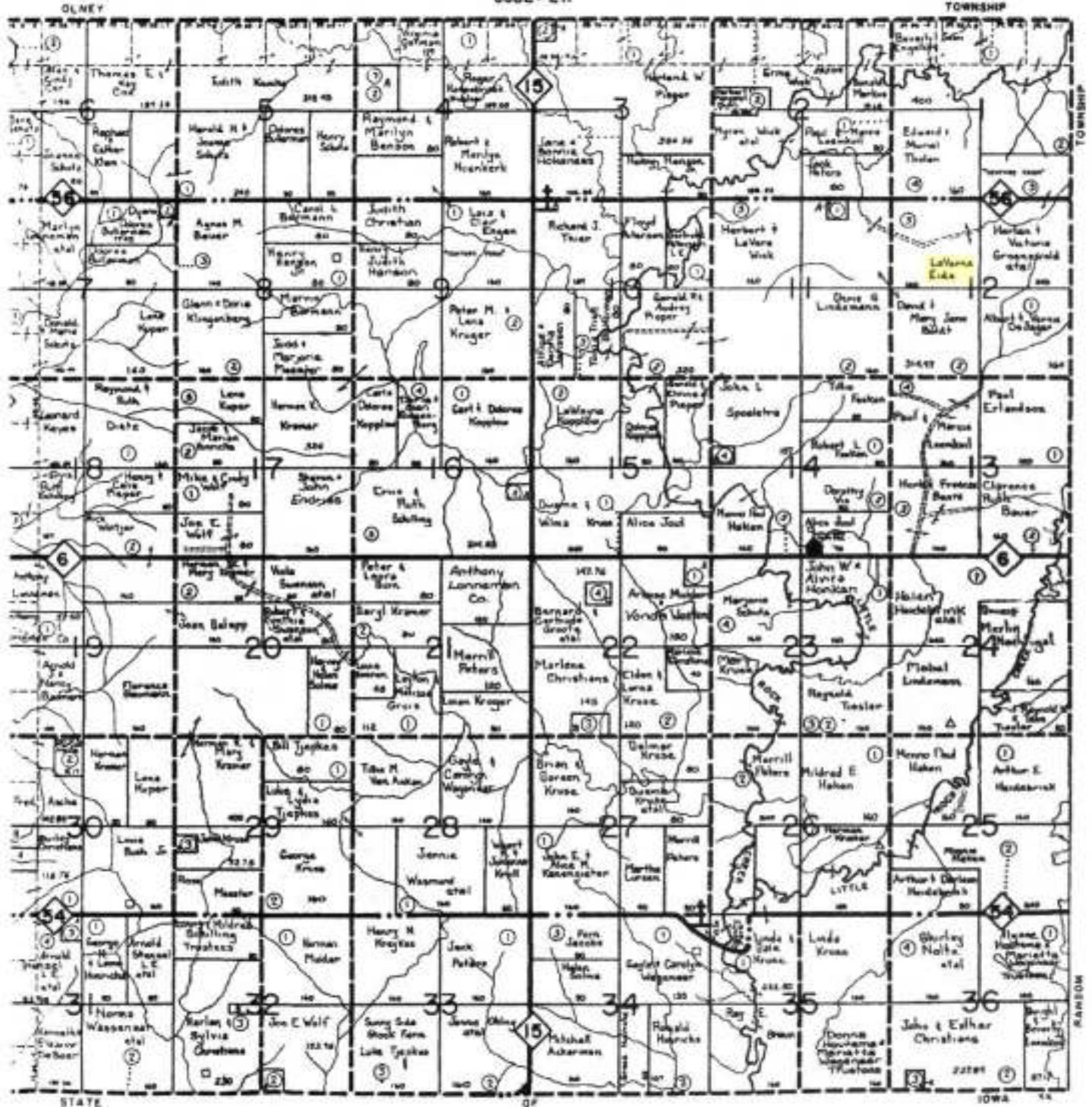
LITTLE ROCK 1993



TOWNSHIP: 101 N.

RANGE: 42 W.

CODE: LR



SEE SMALL TRACT OWNERS FOLLOWING TOWNSHIP MAPS

Miscellaneous scans from the Worthington, MN, area

Some school yearbook scans for two of Ben L. Sorem's children. Years unknown.



ARTHUR SOREM—

"He wears the flower of youth upon him."

ELLEN SOREM—

"The bravest are the tenderest,
The loving are the daring."



ARTHUR SOREM—

"Better not to be at all, than not
to be noble."

Stock-judging '14.



ELLEN SOREM—

"She does not, for one repulse, fore-
go the purpose,
"That she resolv'd to effect."

Miscellaneous scans from the Worthington, MN, area

Military draft status for Thomas Theodore Eide, circa 1917-1918.



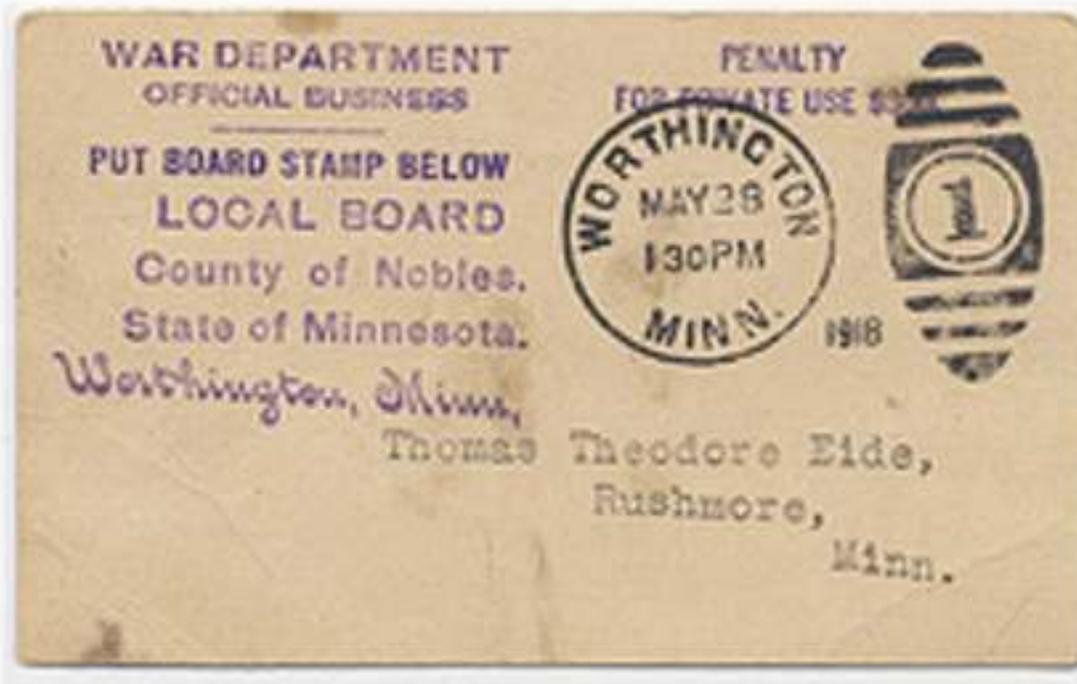
Draft Status-front



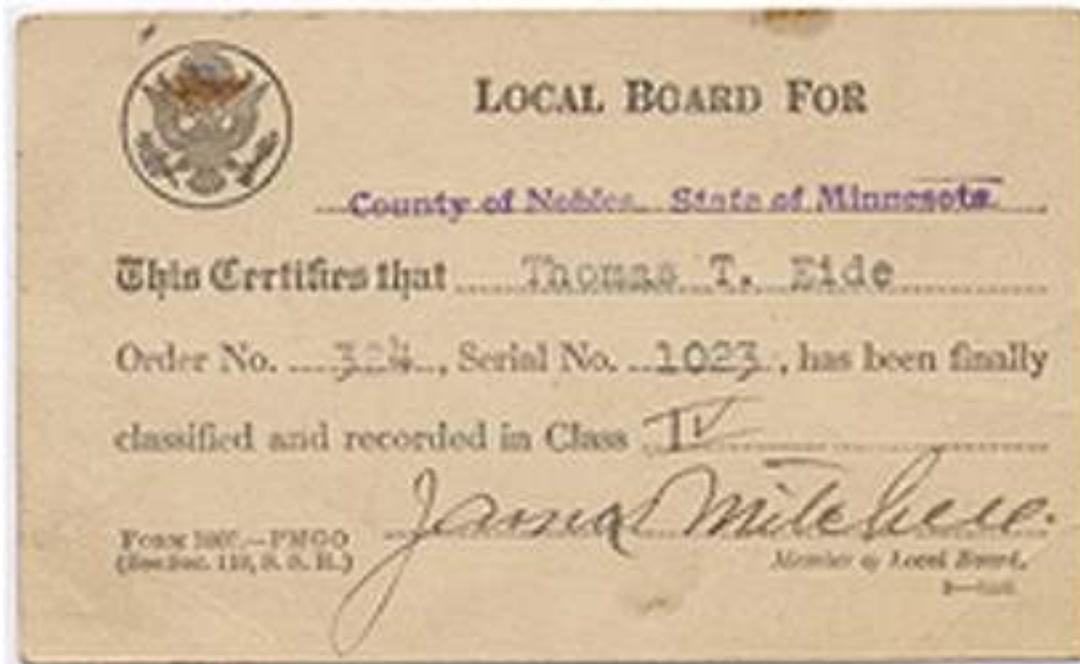
Draft Status-rear

Miscellaneous scans from the Worthington, MN, area

Military draft card for Thomas Theodore Eide, circa 1917-1918.



Draft Card-front



Draft Card-rear

Miscellaneous scans and articles pertaining to the Mons Sorem family

[Mons and Siri's daughter Bessie attended this school in what was at the time Jewell Junction, Iowa, to become a teacher. That was in the late 1890s, as she later taught in Ransom schools for four years.]

Jewell Lutheran College

by Martin E. Nass

The Jewell Lutheran College Association was incorporated on April 11, 1893. The incorporation read "The said college shall be a Lutheran College, but shall not be connected with any special synod. Religion will be taught but it shall not be required. Capital stock of \$10,000 which may be increased to \$25,000 divided into shares of \$100. No person to hold more than ten shares." Officers of the association were: John Thoreson, President; F. H. Alexander, Secretary, and William Anderson, Treasurer. On Nov. 14, 1893, they purchased ten acres of land in the College Addition of Jewell Junction, Iowa, from the Lyon Investment Company for \$180. The members of the board of directors were: Rev. C. J. Eastvold, Rev. G. E. Gerstad, Rev. J. N. Sandren, E. E. Rorem, and Adolf Molstre. A board of trustees were also named in the articles of incorporation. They were: A. E. Hanson, N. J. Nelson, Ed Hanson, Ole J. Olson, Richard Nelson, E. E. Rorem, N. K. Hill, Hans Underdahl, and Rev. C. J. Eastvold.

The Association set about constructing a three-story building with a full basement to serve as the college building. The basement housed bathrooms, a kitchen, dining room, and laundry facilities. The first and second floors were devoted to classrooms and administration. The third floor served as the dormitory. The Aug. 18th 1894 Stanhope Saturday Mail reported that Prof. Vigness and N. J. Nelson were in Chicago last week and purchased a complete supply of new furniture for the Jewell Lutheran College. The Jewell Record of Aug. 25, 1894, reported that "The dedication of the Jewell Junction Lutheran College will occur on Sept. 4th . . . this will be the biggest day Jewell has ever seen for a number of years." The Jewell Record for Nov. 3rd 1894, reported the start of the second term on Nov. 20th . The advertisement states that the "College Association owns \$20,000 worth of real estate in Jewell and differs in responsibility from the average school that nestles in the rented upper story of general stores. The 1896 county atlas shows the college grounds with only one building located at the north end of the college grounds.

Faculty was hired and a schedule was organized to hold classes in four terms; each was ten weeks long. The faculty consisted of L. A. Vigness, President; M. D. Miller, Prof. of Mathematics; J. P. Peterson, Commercial Department; Jessie Bucknam, Prof. Reading and Physical Culture, and Lydia Klove, Music.

In 1894 there were 30 students enrolled at the college. The cost for a student to attend a ten-week term was \$27.50, which included room, board, tuition, and books. The college soon began to experience financial problems. Prof. Miller stated that he was promised a salary of \$400 for the year based on an enrollment of 20 students. This amount was not paid in full. Miller began to question Pres. Vigness in board meetings about his accounts and several expenditures. At the end of this first, stormy year Miller and Peterson both resigned. The board then decided to fire all teachers and vindicated Vigness. Vigness served one more year before he left. Later he became the third president of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. The Aug 24th 1905 Jewell Record reported "... of last year's faculty, all but one could have been retained: but under the circumstances the board deemed it best to engage an entire new teaching force."

(continued)

(Jewell College article continued)

In 1895 the college enrollment was 39 students. The Stanhope Saturday Mail in 1895 urged the people of Jewell to open their homes to provide each student with comfortable living quarters. The course offerings were expanded to include Arithmetic I, II, III, Higher Arithmetic, Geometry, Grammar I, II, U. S. History, History of Education, Psychology, Science, Art of Reading, Bookkeeping, Penmanship, Botany, Zoology, Rhetoric, Civil Government, Latin, Vocal Music, and Physical Culture. The May 29, 1895, edition of the Jewell Record reported there was talk of organizing a baseball club at the college.

The expenses of operating the college were more than the local Association could handle, so they transferred the college property to the Iowa District of the Hagues Synod on Nov. 9, 1897. This synod included the states of Iowa, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas, Illinois, and Texas.

In 1900, the college students organized an Athletic Association with Prof. S. E. Dime as chairman. They laid out a baseball diamond on the college property and organized a baseball team. A lawn tennis team was also added.

In 1902, the college constructed a two-story ladies' dormitory just west and south of the college building. The men continued to be housed on the third floor of the main building. Then tragedy struck the college. A fire on Dec. 2, 1903, burned the main college building to the ground. Two men, Bertem Milang of Rose Grove Township and Julius Peterson of Red Wing, Minnesota, died in the blaze. The fire was discovered by a student named Britt, who arose at 5:00 a.m. to catch a train for his home in Slater. When he descended the stairs he smelled smoke and retraced his steps to alert the 22 boys who were sleeping on the top floor. All hurriedly dressed and escaped, but it was later learned that Milang and Peterson apparently returned to the building. The loss to the college was \$22,000.

College officials announced that classes would be held in the ladies' dormitory until a new structure could be built. Completed in 1904, it was a two-story building that had classrooms on the first and second floors. A full basement was used for kitchen, dining, and laundry. The men students were housed at various homes in Jewell, and the women moved back into their dormitory. A year later a gymnasium was constructed to the south of the dormitory. The college campus now consisted of four buildings: a main building, a dormitory, a gymnasium, and the college president's residence. The students organized both boys' and girls' basketball teams, which played most of the high school teams in the area.

To gain more financial support the Hagues Synod transferred the college to the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America in 1905. In 1917 the college president, Knute Eittrem, reported to the Synod at a meeting in Minneapolis that there were 72 students enrolled at the college. The college continued to operate until the 1918-1919 school year when it closed because of the war. On June 5, 1919, the Association met and decided to re-open the college in the fall.

The Jewell Record of May 31, 1923, reported on changes in the faculty for the next year. Roger Peterson and Prof. G. A. Larson resigned and were replaced by Prof. H. D. Eittreim and Dr. L. M. (Jake) Jacobson. The article continued to say that "the attendance the past year has been only fair which caused friends of the school to be fearful as to the financial outcome." This same year there was talk in Jewell about the need for a new public school building. On Nov 2, 1923 it was noted that the students had started to drive to school in cars. Elmer Charlson drives over from Randall in his 'Star', Burton Olson drives another Star from Wall Lake, and Helen and Irene Hove drive daily from Stanhope in their Ford. On Jan. 11, 1923, the J. L. C. boys defeated Gilbert in basket ball last Friday evening with a score of 30 to 21.

(continued)

(Jewell College article continued)

L. A. Vigness, by now Executive Secretary of the Norwegian Lutheran church, learned of the plan and wrote a letter, dated Dec. 5, 1923, to Mr. Henningson, Chairman of the Board of Education, stating that he wanted to submit some suggestions regarding the Jewell Lutheran College. He stated that, due to a reduced budget for the church, they were "looking at the possibility that Jewell Lutheran College will be one of those schools to discontinue their operation." He went on to say that they were interested in negotiating a transfer of the college property to the Jewell Independent School District.

The college continued until May 24, 1924, when the final commencement of Jewell Lutheran College was held. Only seven students graduated that year. They were: Winfred Bly, Sophia Froisland, Sophie Moline, Ellen Olson, Hazel Hage, Clarence Hanson, and Bernice Sebby. According to records stored at St. Olaf College, 4,236 students attended Jewell Lutheran College during its 31-year history.

On June 19, 1924, a mass meeting was called for July 8th at the college in an effort to save the school. Two plans to be discussed were 1) raising sufficient funds to purchase the college and operate it by the local churches and 2) turning the college into a junior college. Apparently neither plan was approved as nothing more was reported in the Jewell Record. All four college buildings - Main, ladies' dormitory, gymnasium, and the president's residence - were transferred to the Independent School District of Jewell Junction, Iowa, on June 26, 1925, by Warranty Deed for the sum of \$45,000. The school district then used the main building to house the high school and junior high. The ladies' dormitory was transformed into a grade school, and the gymnasium was used for its intended purpose. The president's residence became the school superintendent's home.

Presidents serving the college were, in order: Lauritz A. Vigness, Cornelius R. Hill, Meyer Brandvig, Victor H. Hegstrom, Olaf Q. Skogeberg, Nels J. Lohre, Carl J. Eastvold, Knut O. Eitrem, Henry A. Okdale, and Iver Iverson.



Location of Jewell, Iowa

Miscellaneous scans and articles pertaining to the Mons Sorem family

[Neal Sorem was a son of Lewis and Emily Sorem, and a grandson of Mons and Siri. He was killed in a construction accident in September 1932, at Motley, Minnesota. This article is from the Brainerd Daily Dispatch of Saturday, September 24, 1932. Motley is about 20 miles west of Brainerd.]

ROAD WORKER KILLED AT MOTLEY

THE BRAINERD DAILY DISPATCH

ROB HUGO BANK OF \$2,000

Strike Leaders Snub Conference With Hoover

YOUNG DESPERADOES BELIEVED TRAPPED AT BALD EAGLE, MINN.

RUN OVER BY TRUCK OF GRAVEL

Ed Simon, 15 Northfield, fatally injured while at work on graveling project.

The body of Ed Simon, 15 Northfield, was found on the graveling project at Motley, Minn., Saturday morning. He was killed by a truck of gravel. Simon was about 15 years old and was working on the graveling project at Motley, Minn., Saturday morning. He was killed by a truck of gravel.

ROOSEVELT PLAYS REFUSAL OF G. O. P. TO DEBATE ISSUES

Mr. Roosevelt's refusal to debate the issues of the G. O. P. is a serious matter. He has refused to debate the issues of the G. O. P. This is a serious matter. He has refused to debate the issues of the G. O. P.

THE VANISHED JUNIOR LEAGUER



The disappearance of a young boy, a member of the Junior League, is a mystery. He was last seen on Saturday morning. He was last seen on Saturday morning.

3-POINT PROGRAM OF RECOVERY ADOPTED

The adoption of a three-point program of recovery is a significant step. It includes measures to improve the economy and reduce unemployment. It includes measures to improve the economy and reduce unemployment.

Little Interest Move for Conference

There is little interest in the proposed conference. The organizers are disappointed. There is little interest in the proposed conference.

LEAVES PROVED, HOOVER IS BEEN AGAIN HAPPY WITH RATE AND BABY

Hoover is happy with the rate and the baby. He is pleased with the results. He is pleased with the results.

Leave Only Attention to Street With Bank to Walk as Needs Research Bank

The bank is focusing its attention on the street. It needs research. The bank is focusing its attention on the street.

RAILROADS REACH AGREEMENT PLAN OF CONSOLIDATION

The railroads have reached an agreement on a plan of consolidation. This is a major step. This is a major step.

(continued)

[This is the article from the front page. Misspellings and other typos are left in place.]

RUN OVER BY TRUCK OF GRAVEL

[Found on-line, 03 April 2013]

[Newspaper date:
Saturday, September 24, 1932]

Neil Sorem, 19 Northfield, Fatally Injured While at Work on Graveling Project

The body of Neal Sorem, 19, of Northfield, who was fatally injured late Friday when he was run over by a heavily laden gravel truck in Motley, today was sent to his home for funeral services and interment.

An employe of the Sloan Construction company which has the contract for graveling highway No. 37 through Motley, Sorem was riding on the truck driven by his brother, Ernest, enroute to the hotel where he stayed. He had just finished his shift as a truck driver on the project.

Sorem was about to step from the moving truck when his clothes became caught. He lost his footing and fell under the machine, the wheels passing over his head and body.

According to Dr. G. K. Sellers, Motley physician who attended him, death was due to a fractured skull. He suffered the fracture of several bones also in the accident, Dr. Sellers said.

Sorem died in the office of Dr. Sellers several minutes after the accident. The accident happened directly in front of the physician's office.

Coroner of Morrison county announced today that no inquest would be held.

Miscellaneous scans and articles pertaining to the Mons Sorem family

[The barn on the Chester Sorem farm west of Northfield, Minnesota, burned on Monday, August 27, 1956. This is NOT an actual picture of the burning barn, but was added to the story for effect. Chester was a son of Lewis and Emily Sorem, and a grandson of Mons and Siri.]



50 Years Ago -- Aug. 30, 1956:

[From Northfield News, August 30, 2006]

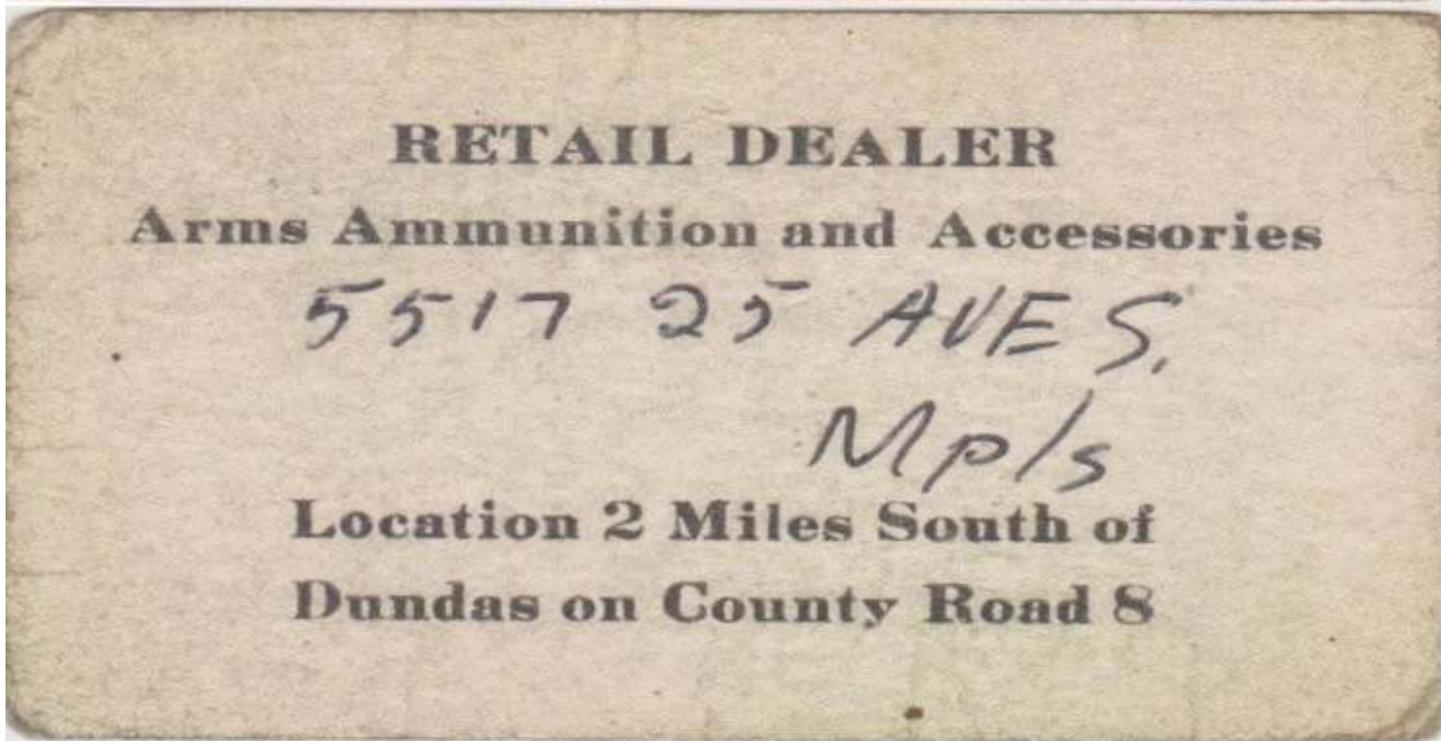
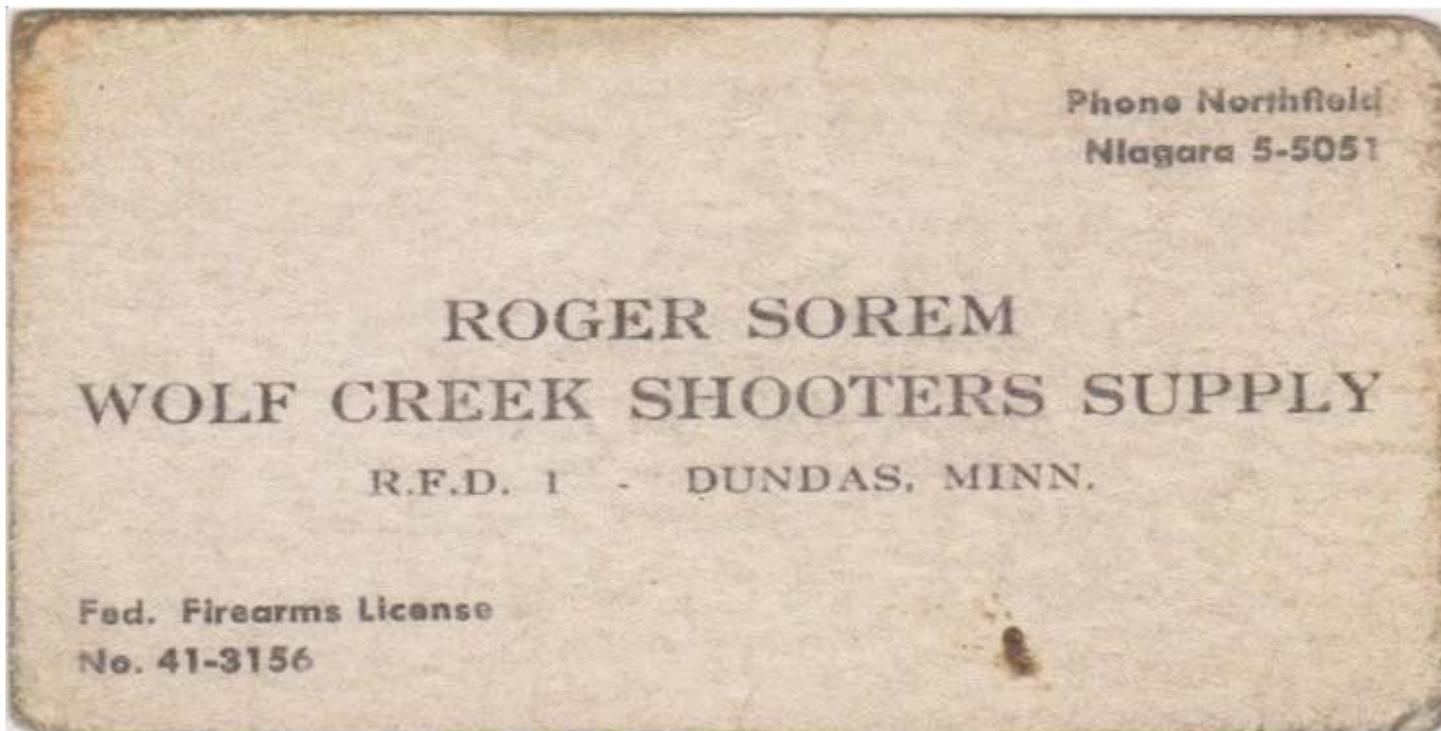
Seven calves (one of them a purebred Holstein), one cow and one heifer were killed in a fire that completely destroyed the barn at the Chester Sorem farm west of Northfield at 5 a.m. Monday. Sorem and three hired men were milking 44 head when the fire was discovered. The Sorems have more than 100 head and it took some time to get all out of the burning building.



Here is Chester riding a bicycle by the barn that actually later burned.

Miscellaneous scans and articles pertaining to the Mons Sorem family

[Roger Sorem, son of Marbert and Lillian Sorem, grandson of Lewis and Emily Sorem, and great-grandson of Mons and Siri, for many years ran a gun and ammunition business (Wolf Creek Shooters Supply) from his home. Here is a scan of an old business card. I do not know what the hand-written address is. Wolf Creek ran through the family farm.]



Miscellaneous scans and articles pertaining to the Mons Sorem family

[On Easter morning, March 31, 1991, Brian Soden, who was not yet 15, died when one of our old farm houses burned. He was a son of William Soden and Betty Sorem Soden, a grandson of Marbert and Lillian Sorem, a great-grandson of Lewis and Emily Sorem, and a great-great grandson of Mon and Siri. This is a memorial written in 2013 by Emily Phoebe Sorem McNeill, a daughter of Marbert and Lillian, and an aunt to Brian.]

1991, Easter Sunday, March 31

In the wee hours of Easter Sunday morning in 1991, the phone rang. Phones that ring in the middle of the night seldom bring good news. This was no exception. The farm house where we had grown up was on fire, and my nephew Brian did not make it out.

Brian was sleeping upstairs when the wiring in the 80 + year old house crackled through a wall and lit the dry wood ablaze. He was recovering from an appendectomy.

His older sister and his younger brother were sleeping in the living room, as they had been watching TV.

Roxanne tried to make it up the stairs to get him, and her hair was burned. Neighbors across the road brought the two in and called their mother, who had been working late.

When she got to the farm and saw the house ablaze, she looked for the kids to be standing by the mailbox, where they were to go if something like this happened. They weren't there! The neighbor caught her before she tried to get into the burning house.

Neighbors and some of the family who were able to get there, stood around crying and wondering what to do. Roxanne and Scott had been taken to the hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation. When the firemen found Brian's body, they made everyone leave.

The sad news was broadcast on TV stations, and through the country grapevine. It was especially heart-rending to see the fire chief crying as he was being interviewed.

All of us had nightmares for a long time. Brian's cousins started looking at their own rooms in their own houses...and wondering how they would get out if there was a fire! It made us all look at how short life can be.

Brian's remains were cremated and a memorial service was held in our little country church. His school picture was hurriedly printed and displayed at the funeral. A notebook journal Brian had been writing in for his Confirmation class was returned by the pastor. There were heart-breaking passages there, that showed how really grown-up he was getting.

Brian's ashes were scattered at the lake of the Boy Scout camp he had loved. He had gained the rank of Eagle and was proud of that, as we all were.

Roxanne wrote poetry and used her artistic talents to try to cope with his death. One poem had the line: "I am fifteen, you are fourteen. Next year I will be sixteen, but you will still be fourteen."

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There were many donations given to the family: clothes, as all were gone; money to pay expenses; the loan of a house for a while; a video game and other things for 13-yr-old Scott. He loved the video game, but told me one day, he would give back all of it, if Brian could just be there again! We all felt the same!

Time passed. I would see Brian in the face of so many young boys with glasses sliding down their noses and wild brown hair that just didn't want to stay "styled." Sometimes, I still do. But now I look at faces of 36-year old young men, and wonder what Brian would be like.

2013, Easter Sunday, March 31

We'll remember and there will be tears, but there will also be laughter as we recount the many stories of Brian's logical mind that had unique ways to see things. He had been slow to talk as a toddler and continued his slow, deliberate delivery of words as if he really wanted us to listen! We said it was because his sister was such a chatterbox he couldn't get in a word!

We'll always miss you Brian, but know you are in a wonderful place!

Love, Aunt Phoebe

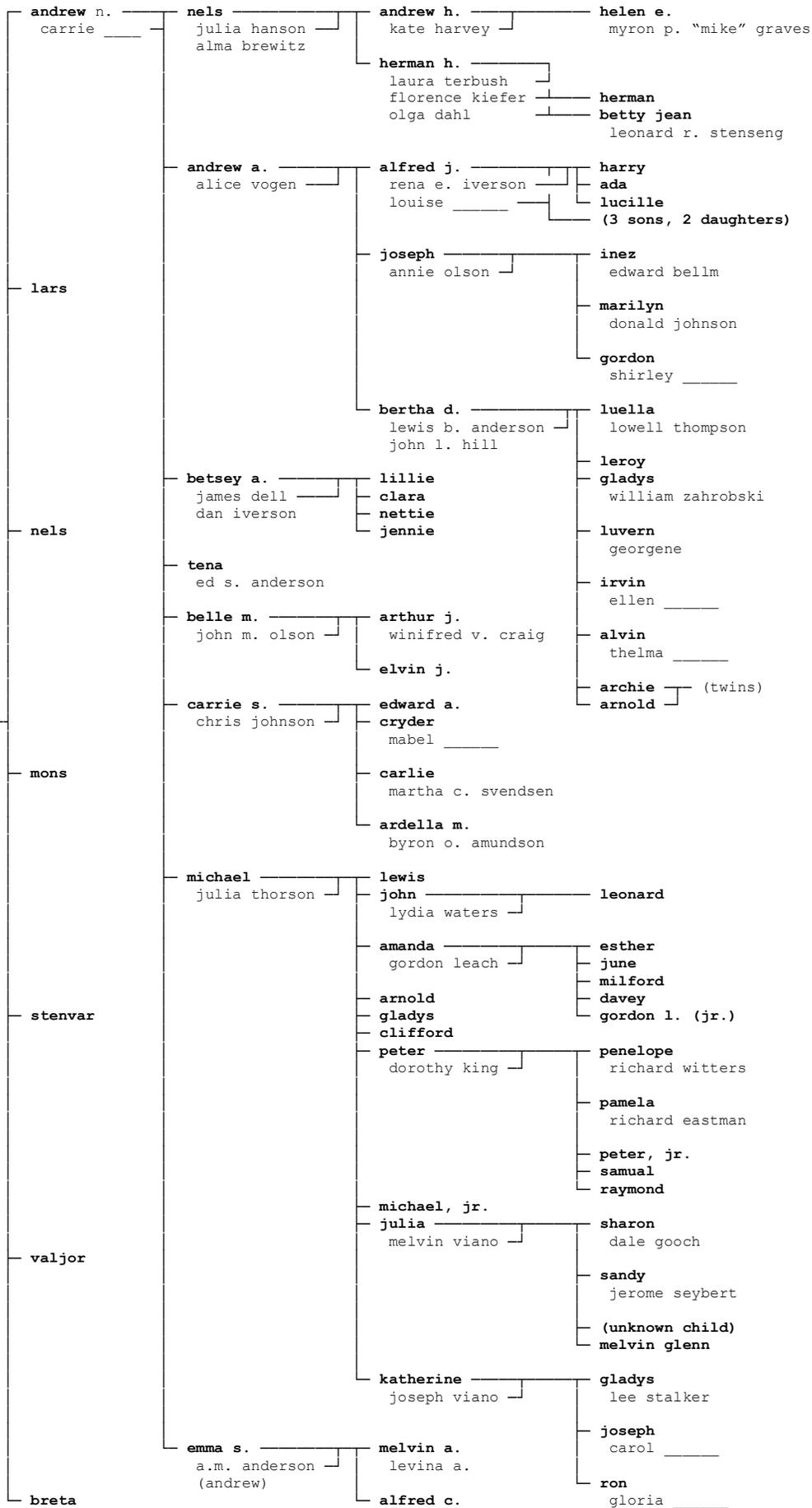
This concludes the section of this document concerning the Mons Sorem family.

Note that either in the last pages of this document or in a separate document are cemetery pictures, and perhaps other miscellaneous pictures from all branches of the family.

Andrew N. Sorem

SOREM

the descendants
of nels and breta
of sorheim, near
etne, norway



Andrew (Anders) Nilson Sorem (brother of Mons) Family

Wife: Carrie (Kari) N. Sorem

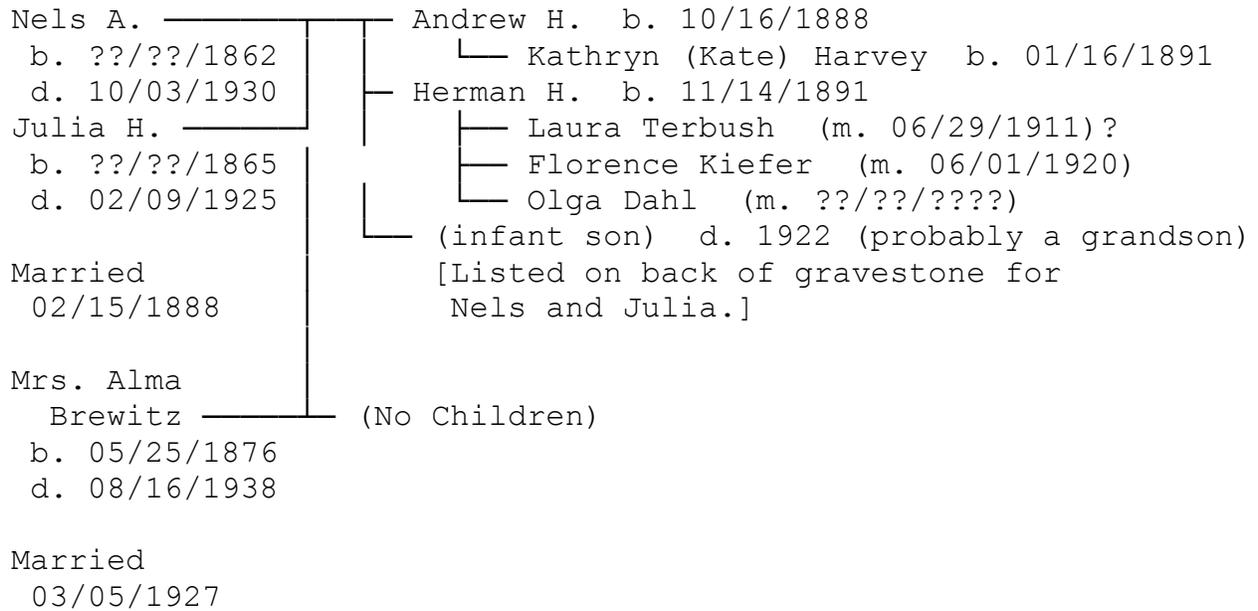
Andrew N. b. 03/25/1830 d. 02/16/1904 Carrie N. b. 02/02/1835 d. 04/08/1926 Married 06/24/1861	Nels A. b. ??/??/1862 d. 10/03/1930 ├── Julia H. Hanson b. 1865 d. 02/09/1925 └── Mrs. Alma Brewitz b. ???? d. 1938 Andrew A. b. 12/05/1865 d. 06/06/1935 └── Alice Vogen b. 12/09/1866 d. 11/16/1939 Betsey A. b. ??/??/1867 d. 02/06/1959 ├── James J. Dell b. 1864 d. 1901 └── Dan Iverson b. 1873 d. 1956 Tena b. ??/??/1870 d. ??/??/1947 └── Ed Anderson b. 03/26/1879 d. 05/07/1910 Belle b. 01/25/1873 d. 09/30/1962 └── John M. Olson b. 1871 d. 1907 Carrie S. b. ??/??/1874 d. 12/12/1968 └── Chris M. Johnson b. 1873 d. 06/24/1941 Michael b. 02/03/1877 d. 02/22/1955 └── Julia Thorson b. 07/20/1880 d. 09/17/1968 Emma S. b. ??/??/1880 d. 09/??/1958 └── Andrew M. Anderson b. 1874 d. 01/04/1951
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Andrew N. (son of Nels Michaelson, 1784-1874, and Brita Larsdatter, 1796-1871) and Carrie N. (Kari Gregoriusdatter) were both born in Norway, and were married in Etne in 1861 (some sources say 1860). They came to the Morris, Illinois, area in 1867, and lived near there. Andrew N. and Carrie N. Sorem are buried in Saratoga Cemetery, north of Morris. I have death notices for both. I also have quite a bit of information on the three sons, Nels, Andrew, and Michael, but much less on the five daughters. I originally had problems identifying the daughters names, and in some cases, their spouses as well. Part of the reason for this is that at the time wives were very often only identified via the husband's name, and also sometimes the husbands only went by initials. For example, I originally only had Emma identified as Mrs. A.M. Anderson. These conventions often extended to obituaries and even gravestone markings. I have pictures from Saratoga Cemetery of most of these gravestones, but I missed some due to lack of information when there. In particular, I know the least about Tena (sometimes identified as Tinnie) and Ed (also known as Eddie) Anderson. I do have a picture of Eddie Anderson's gravestone (he died young, in 1910, at age 31), but it is not a picture I took. It's possible that after his death Tena remarried and/or moved elsewhere. Also note that Nels and Michael are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Morris.

Nels A. Sorem (Son of Andrew N.) Family

Wife #1: Julia H. Hanson

Wife #2: Mrs. Alma Brewitz



(Continued on next page)

Nels A. Sorem Family (continued)

Nels A. Sorem was born in Etne, Norway, in 1862 (have not determined a month and day). At age 26, he was married to Julia H. Hanson, age 23, on February 15, 1888 by the Rev. N. G. Nilson. Following is a short newspaper item from the Morris Daily Herald of February 17, 1888:

Mr. Nels A. Sorem marries Miss Julia Hanson, both of Saratoga.

Among the presents received was an elegant tea set containing 56 pieces, a gift from Mr. and Mrs. E. Sanford.

Nels A. and Julia H. Sorem both lived near Morris, Illinois (Saratoga Township, Grundy County, north of Morris). Julia died December 9, 1925, and Nels remarried Mrs. Alma Brewitz from Benton Harbor, Michigan, on March 5, 1927. Nels died October 3, 1930, at age 68, after a long illness. Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Brewitz, and Mr. and Mrs. George Brewitz came to Nels's funeral. Nels A. and Julia H. Sorem are buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morris. On the reverse side of the gravestone for Nels and Julia is listed an "INFANT SON 1922" which would seem to be a grandson, as Nels would be 60 and Julia 57 that year. At this time I do not know too much about sons Andrew H. and Herman H. Sorem, though with a recent contact (with a wealth of information about Herman) that has improved a bit! Andrew married Kate Harvey on June 25, 1913 (see newspaper write-up later), and they had at least one daughter, Helen. He worked for John W. Hynds, proprietor of Hynds Bros., a shoe store in Morris, for eighteen years, and upon the death of Mr. Hynds on November 28, 1921 it became "The Sorem Bootery." At one point I had a scan of an advertisement for that business from the time, but have been unable to locate it. Incidentally, in the funeral write-up for Nels A. Sorem (see separate pages), it is mentioned that Mrs. T.A. Sorem of Roland, Minn., attended. This is the closest connection I have found with the Sorems in Story County, Iowa (except for Mons's son, Severt M. Sorem). Roland is actually in Story County, Iowa, and not in Minnesota as stated in the newspaper article. I have some obituaries from that area (see separate pages), including Torres A. Sorem, who died in January of 1930. His wife Kaia died in Roland in 1967. It appears that this Sorem family may have been related to Mons somewhere back in Norway. Perhaps Torres was a nephew or cousin of Mons. This remains to be researched.

Andrew H. Sorem (Son of Nels A.) Family

Wife: Kathryn (Kate) Harvey

Andrew H. _____ Helen E. b. 08/11/1917 (d. 03/28/2001)
b. 10/16/1888 | _____ Myron P. Graves b. 04/09/1915 d.04/18/1984
d. 09/20/1977 | (m. 11/15/1939)
Kate Harvey _____
b. 01/16/1891
d. 01/22/1979

Married
06/25/1913

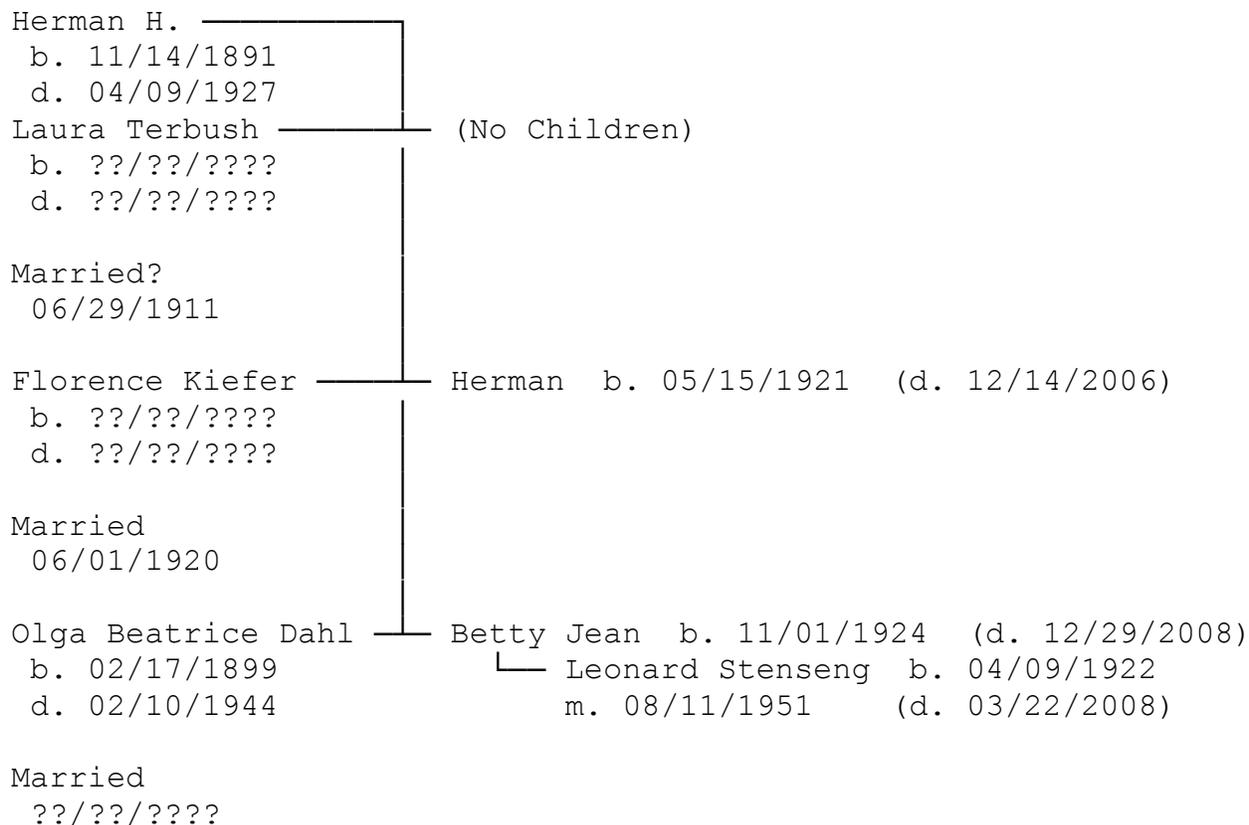
Andrew H. Sorem was born in Morris, Illinois, on October 16, 1888. He met and married Kathryn (Kate) Harvey, a nurse originally from Chicago, in 1913. During my research I spoke on the telephone with their nephew, Herman Sorem (Jr.), and Herman had fond remembrances of both Andrew and Kate. They had one daughter, Helen, who married Myron Paul "Mike" Graves, and moved to Iowa. Andrew worked at a shoe store in Morris, and it later became the Sorem Bootery, which he operated for many years. Andrew and Kate are both buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Morris.

Herman H. Sorem (Son of Nels A.) Family

Wife #1: Laura Terbush

Wife #2: Florence Kiefer

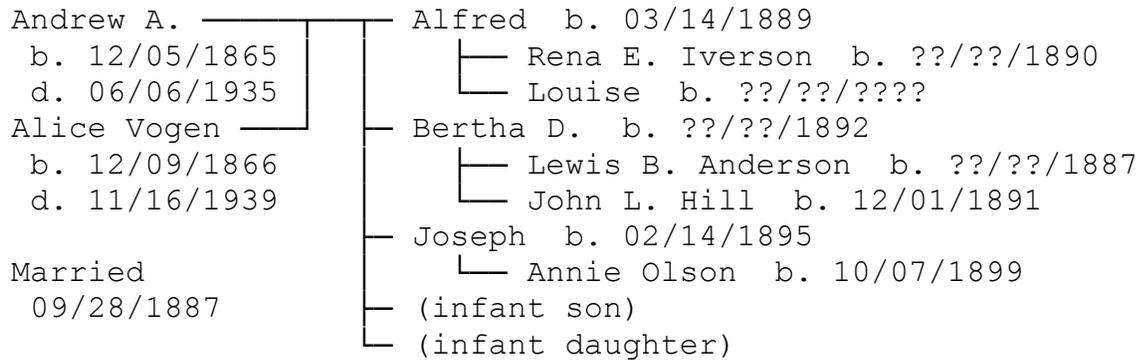
Wife #3: Olga Beatrice Dahl



Herman H. Sorem was born in Morris, Illinois, on November 14, 1891. Herman was an attorney in Chicago, and was living there at the time of his death from cancer at age 35 (see obituary from the Morris Daily Herald). There is some confusion about whether Herman was actually married to his first wife in 1911. See the newspaper clipping from the Morris Daily Herald (June 18, 1911) about this. Note that Laura was only 16 at the time. Herman was apparently only married briefly to Florence, and she gave birth to Herman (Jr.). I spoke with Betty Jean's daughter Sandy, and she was very helpful with supplying dates for me, but Sandy told me that, while she was growing up, her mother Betty Jean was never aware that she had a half-brother, Herman (Jr.), even though they were only about 3-1/2 years apart in age. Herman is buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery in Chicago, along with his third wife, Olga. Betty Jean and Leonard are buried at Willow Grove Cemetery in Buffalo, Wyoming, but Leonard's mother Lena Stenseng is buried at Mount Olive with Herman H. and Olga. At the time of Olga's death (almost 17 years after Herman H. died) she was remarried, so the last name on her stone is Goslin. Herman (Jr.) was living in California at the time of his death.

Andrew A. Sorem (Son of Andrew N.) Family

Wife: Alice Vogen

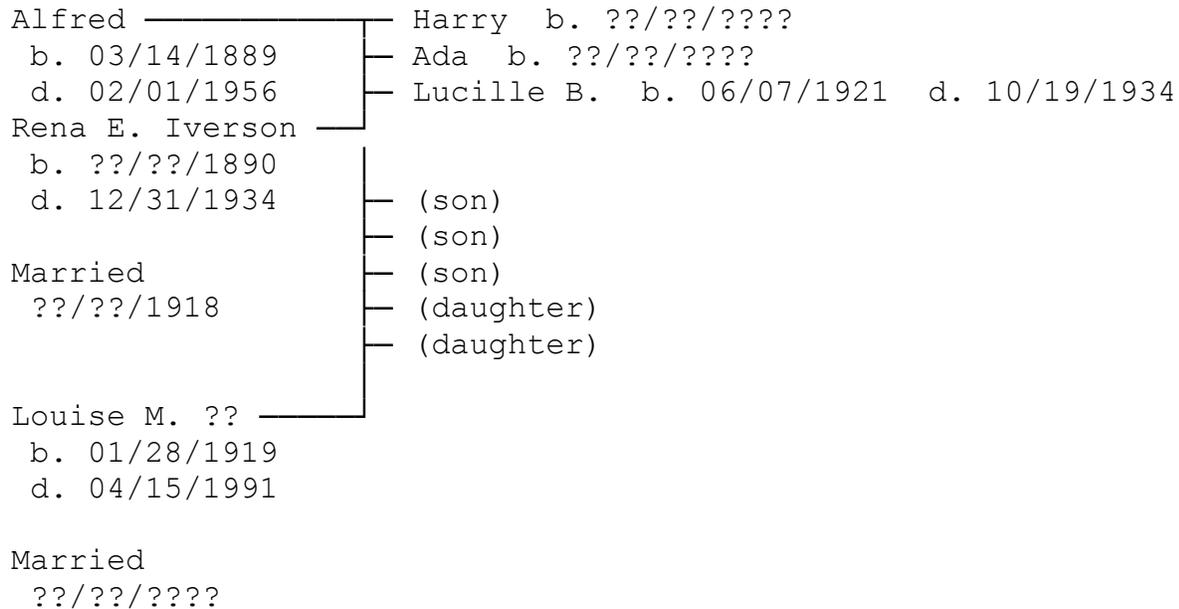


Alice Vogen was a sister to Elizabeth Vogen who married Nels M. Sorem (they moved to Minnesota – see the information on the Mons Sorem family). According to information gleaned from obituaries, daughter Bertha was adopted after her parents both died when she was young (family name: Grunstad). She was a half-sister to other Grunstad children who were raised by Nels M. and Elizabeth Vogen Sorem in Minnesota. Andrew A. and Alice V. Sorem lived near Morris, Illinois, and are both buried in Saratoga Cemetery, north of Morris.

Alfred Sorem (Son of Andrew A.) Family

Wife #1: Rena E. Iverson

Wife #2: Louise ??



Alfred Sorem was born in Saratoga Township, Grundy County, Illinois, on March 14, 1889. He and his first wife Rena spent most of their married life in Minnesota, but Rena is buried in Saratoga Cemetery north of Morris, Illinois. They had three children, Harry, Ada, and Lucille. I have found no information about Harry. Ada may have moved to Kansas. Lucille died in 1934 and is buried near Alfred in Saratoga Cemetery. Information on Alfred's second wife, Louise, has been somewhat confusing. His obituary only identifies his "widow" Eloise, and the fact that they had three sons and two daughters. One of those sons is an Alfred Sorem who lived in Brainerd, Minnesota. I met him once, and corresponded briefly, but lost touch, then had contact again. He told me that Louise, who is buried at Saratoga Cemetery, was his mother. Alfred's first wife, Rena, is a bit of a mystery to me as well. I did not find an obituary, but because of other stones in the area of Saratoga Cemetery where she is buried, I find it possible that she was related to Dan Iverson, who was Betsey Sorem Dell's (the widow of James Dell, 1864-1901) second husband. Betsey Dell Iverson's name shares the gravestone of James Dell, but Dan Iverson's stone is nearby. Adding to the confusion is that Rena's stone (which shows "Rena E. Sorem") is very near an "Everson" headstone. Dan died in 1956 and Betsey in 1959. Note that Rena and Lucille both died in 1934. At first I only had those years, so I wondered if it was might be from a common cause. Now I have actual death dates, one in October and one in December, so this no longer seems likely to me. Since Alfred was living in Little Falls, Minnesota, at the time of his death, I may find more information about Louise and their children there.

Joseph Sorem (Son of Andrew A.) Family

Wife: Annie Olson

Joseph	_____	Inez Leone	b. 08/27/1922	(d. 05/15/2005)
b. 02/14/1895		└─ Edward Bellm	b. 11/18/1916	(d.02/12/2005)
d. 02/17/1961		└─ Marilyn	b. 06/20/1924	(d. 09/09/2009)
Annie Olson	_____	└─ Donald Johnson	b. 1926?	(d. 04/16/2015?)
b. 10/07/1899		└─ Gordon	b. 12/01/1931	
d. 04/07/1993		└─ Shirley ??	b. ??/??/????	

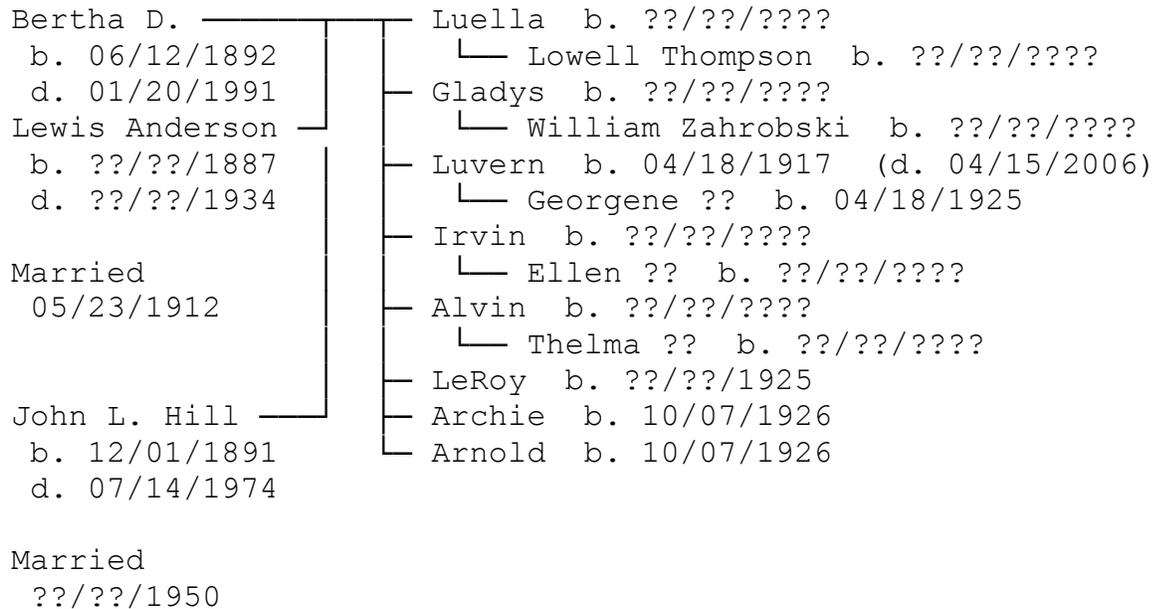
Married
10/07/1919

Joseph Sorem was born in Saratoga Township, Grundy County, Illinois, on February 14, 1895. He and Annie farmed for many years in Saratoga Township, and Joseph was later employed at Morris Paper Mills. They are both buried in Saratoga Cemetery north of Morris, Illinois. Inez and Edward Bellm are buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery, west of Morris. Marilyn and Donald Johnson are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Morris. I could find no further information on Gordon and Shirley.

Bertha D. Sorem (Daughter of Andrew A.) Family

Husband #1: Lewis B. Anderson

Husband #2: John L. Hill

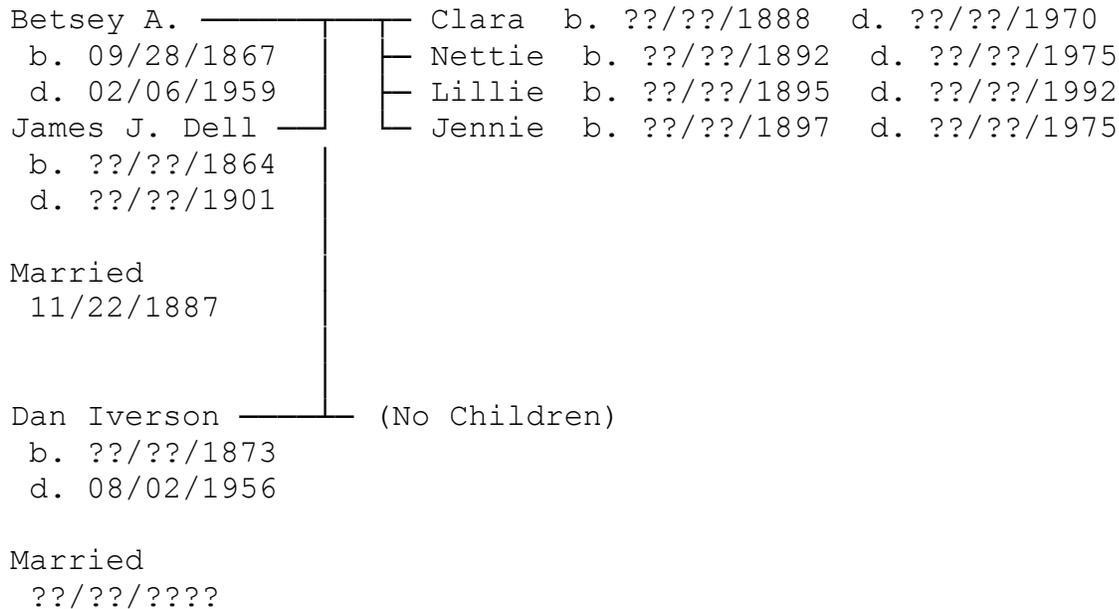


Bertha D. Sorem's mother, Mrs. Bertha Grunstad, was a sister of Elizabeth Vogen (married to Nels M. Sorem) and Alice Vogen (married to Andrew A. Sorem). Mrs. Bertha Grunstad and her husband (have not been able to locate a first name) both died when their children were young. As noted earlier, Nels M. and Elizabeth Vogen Sorem took in four of the Grunstad children and raised them as their own, but they kept the Grunstad name. Bertha D. was apparently adopted by Andrew A. and Alice Vogen Sorem in Illinois. Bertha married Lewis B. Anderson, and they farmed in Minnesota from 1912 to 1929, then moved to the Morris, Illinois, area. They had eight children. After Lewis died in 1934 Bertha later married John L. Hill in 1950. Lewis and Bertha are buried in Saratoga Cemetery north of Morris. John is, according to his obituary, buried, along with his first wife, Gertrude M. (1895-1947) in Gardner Prairie Cemetery, SSE of Morris. But this may have been renamed Braceville Gardner Cemetery, or else Gardner Prairie Cemetery no longer exists. I met with Luvern and Georgene for a couple of hours in the mid-1990s. You'll note that they share the same month and day for a birthday (04/18). They were also married on 04/18/1947.

Betsey A. Sorem (Daughter of Andrew N.) Family

Husband #1: James J. Dell

Husband #2: Dan Iverson



Betsey A. Sorem (identified many places as “Betsy,” and in at least one story as “Brita Karine”) was born in Grundy County, Illinois, in 1867. On 11/22/1887 she married James Johnson Dell, and they had four children as shown above. After James died in 1901, she later married Dan Iverson (unable to locate a marriage date). I could not find whether they had any children. Betsey was only 33 or 34 when James died. I do not know if Dan was related to Rena Iverson who married Alfred Sorem (a nephew of Betsey), but it certainly seems possible. Betsey, James, and Dan are all buried in Saratoga Cemetery north of Morris, Illinois. James and Betsey share a gravestone, and Dan’s is nearby.

Tena Sorem (Daughter of Andrew N.) Family

Husband: Ed S. Anderson

Tena _____ (Unknown children)
b. ??/??/1870
d. ??/??/1947
Ed S. Anderson —┐
b. 03/26/1879
d. 05/07/1910

Married
01/16/1895

Tena Sorem (sometimes identified as “Tinnie”) was born in Grundy County, Illinois, in 1870. She married Ed (Eddie) Anderson, and through some hard work, I was finally able to determine the marriage date shown above. Eddie is buried in Saratoga Cemetery north of Morris, Illinois. Note that Eddie and his father Andrew died the same year (1910). On Eddie’s gravestone (that is the name there) is the phrase “BELOVED HUSBAND & FATHER.” From that, I also assume that Ed and Tena had at least one child, but I was unable to find any information about offspring. Ed also had at least one brother, Lewis (1884-1960). From information I found it appears that Ed and Tena may have moved to Linn, Iowa, at some point. Since Ed died quite young (at 31), perhaps Tena remarried and/or moved away, but I was unable to find any other information about her except for the year of her death (1947).

Belle M. Sorem (Daughter of Andrew N.) Family

Husband: John M. Olson

Belle M. _____ Arthur J. b. ??/??/1895 d. 06/28/1945
b. 01/25/1873 └ Winifred V. Craig b. 1896 d. 11/12/1962
d. 09/30/1962 └ Elvin J. b. 05/31/1900 d. 03/16/1904
John M. Olson _____
b. ??/??/1871
d. ??/??/1907

Married
01/16/1895

Belle M. Sorem was born in Grundy County, Illinois, in 1873. She married John M. Olson in 1895, and they had two children as shown above. Belle and John are both buried in Saratoga Cemetery north of Morris, Illinois, as are Arthur, Winifred, and Elvin.

Carrie S. Sorem (Daughter of Andrew N.) Family

Husband: Christian M. Johnson

Carrie S.	Edward A.	b. 08/22/1895	d. 05/06/1953
b. ??/??/1874	Cryder	b. 07/20/1898	d. 09/20/1975
d. 12/12/1968	└─Mabel ??	b. 1903	d. 1929
Chris Johnson	Carlie	b. 04/07/1899	d. 05/10/1977
b. ??/??/1873	└─Martha C. Svendsen	b. 1900	d. 1983
d. 06/24/1941	Ardella M.	b. 02/01/1905	d. 10/19/1975
	└─Byron O. Amundson	b. 1905	d. 1982

Married
03/21/1894

Carrie S. Sorem was born in Grundy County, Illinois, in 1874. She married Christian M. (Chris) Johnson, and after much work, I was able to find the marriage date shown above. They had four children as shown above. I could not find any evidence that Edward was ever married. I do not know if Cryder or Carlie had any children with their wives. Ardella married Byron Oliver Amundson (04/06/1905-12/??/1982), and they had a daughter, Gloria Helen, who was either stillborn or died the day of her birth (04/09/1943). Some sources show a second child, Carol Joan, but I could not find a birth date or any other information. Carrie and Chris are both buried in Saratoga Cemetery north of Morris, Illinois, as are their four children, the three spouses, and infant Gloria.

Michael N. Sorem (Son of Andrew N.) Family

Wife: Julia Thorson

Michael	—	Lewis	b. 11/21/1898	d. 11/20/1918
b. 02/03/1877		John M.	b. 07/17/1900	d. 12/18/1980
d. 02/22/1955		└─ Lydia F. Waters	b. 02/19/1905	
Julia Thorson	—	Amanda	b. 03/03/1903	d. 07/01/1972
b. 07/20/1880		└─ Gordon Leach	b. 11/17/1903	d. 12/01/1968
d. 09/17/1968		Arnold	b. 10/22/1904?	d. 11/20/1918
		Gladys	b. 02/22/1907	d. 11/19/1918
Married		Clifford	b. 06/17/1909	d. 10/01/1982
03/17/1898		Peter	b. 08/15/1911	d. 06/21/1970
		└─ Dorothy (Butler) King	b. ???/??/????	
		Michael, Jr.	b. 11/01/1913	d. 12/24/1956
		Julia	b. 11/24/1915	d. 12/26/1970
		└─ Melvin Viano	b. 11/12/1918	d. 03/23/1984
		Katherine	b. 09/29/1918	(d. 03/29/2008)
		└─ Joseph Viano	b. 03/10/1917	d. 06/03/1985

Michael N. Sorem (also known as Michael Andrew Sorem) lived near Morris, Illinois, but apparently moved away at some point. Michael and Julia are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Morris, and children Lewis, John, Arnold, Gladys, Peter, Michael (Jr.), Julia, and Katherine are also listed on the same stone. As of the mid-1990s, Katherine was living in nearby Channahon, and I talked with her for a short while there, and also got some information from her family Bible. (She has since died, 03/29/2008.) Lewis, Arnold, and Gladys all died in the 1918 flu epidemic. There is some doubt about Arnold's birth date. Find-A-Grave web site shows 10/22/1904, but the gravestone just shows 1905. Clifford apparently moved away to East Moline, Illinois, and then to nearby Colona. I got his birth and death dates from on-line sources, and they seem to make sense. On-line records say he is buried at Greenview Memorial Gardens in East Moline (I have a gravestone photo). He also apparently had at least one child, a son, Rolleen Clifford Sorem, b. 07/23/1947, d. 10/13/1967, an Army PFC, so this appears likely to be a death in Viet Nam. Amanda married Gordon Leach in 1922, and as far as I could determine they had five children. Amanda and Gordon were originally buried at the Old Mazon Cemetery south of Morris, but that cemetery has been abandoned, and they were moved to Brookside Cemetery, on the west edge of the town of Mazon. Julia was married to Melvin Viano, and Katherine married Melvin's brother, Joseph.

John M. Sorem (Son of Michael) Family

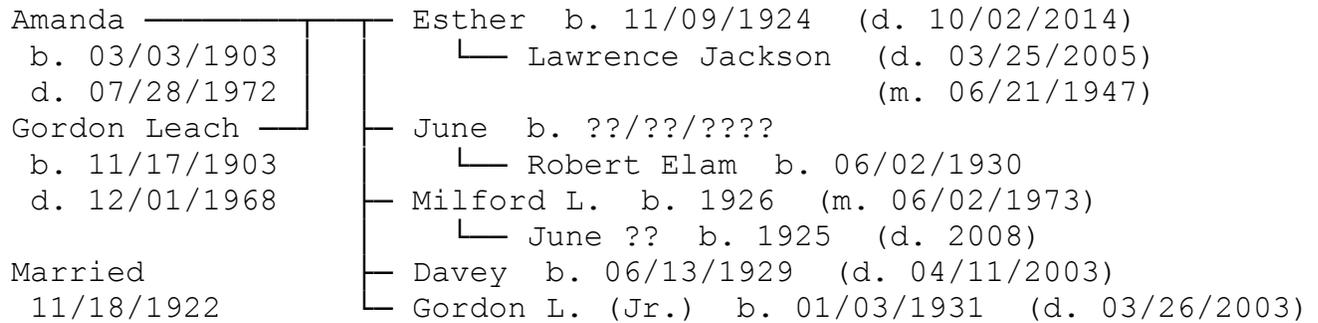
Wife: Lydia Waters (Pope)

John M. _____ Leonard J. b. 12/25/1929 (d. 02/11/2008)
b. 07/17/1900
d. 12/15/1980
Lydia F. Waters _____ Dorothy b. ??/??/????
b. 02/19/1905 _____ William Rolando b. ??/??/????
(d. 10/19/1996) _____ Nancy Thompson b. ??/??/????
_____ Wayne Pope b. 06/24/1940 (d. 08/25/2009)
Married _____ Barbara Wiekert (m. 07/28/1963)
11/30/1929

John M. and Lydia (Waters) Sorem lived in the Morris, Illinois, area, and had one son, Leonard J. Apparently they later divorced and Lydia married George Pope. As far as I can determine, they had two daughters, Dorothy and Nancy, and one son, Wayne. John is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Morris, along with many of his siblings. His name is listed on the Michael N. Sorem gravestone. (Leonard is interred at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois.)

Amanda Sorem (Daughter of Michael) Family

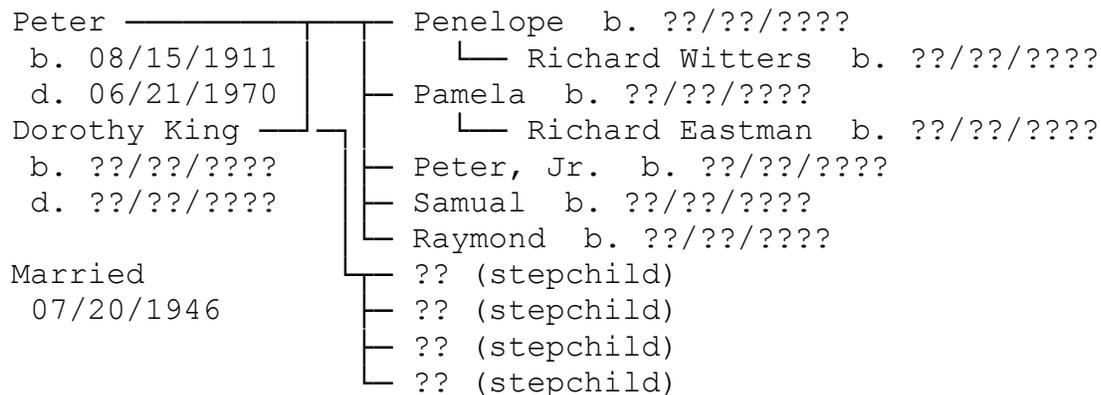
Husband: Gordon Leach



Amanda Perlina Sorem married Gordon Leach, and they lived in the Mazon, Illinois, area, south of Morris. Though I had some problems filling in the information on this family, it appears that they had five children as shown above. Amanda and Gordon were originally buried in the Old Mazon Cemetery, east and a bit south of Mazon, but that cemetery has apparently been abandoned, and they were moved to Brookside Cemetery on the west edge of Mazon. Many other Leach family members are buried there as well.

Peter Sorem (Son of Michael) Family

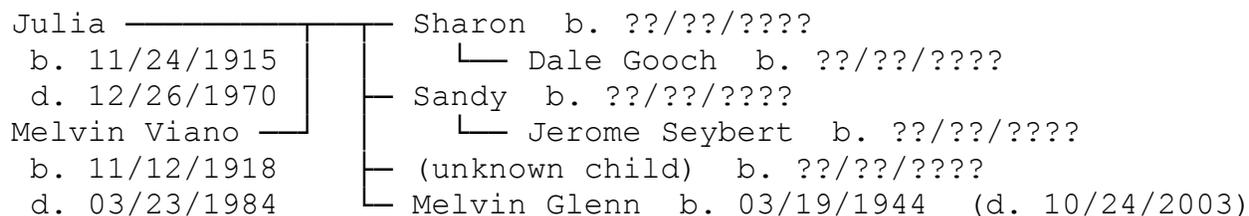
Wife: Dorothy (Butler) King



Peter Sorem married Dorothy (Butler) King, and they lived in the Morris, Illinois, area. As one can see from the above diagram I have learned little about this family – with most information coming from Peter’s obituary. Peter is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Morris, along with many of his siblings. His name is listed on the Michael N. Sorem gravestone.

Julia Sorem (Daughter of Michael) Family

Husband: Melvin Viano



Married
??/??/????

Julia Sorem married Melvin Viano, and they lived in the Morris, Illinois, area. As one can see from the above diagram I have learned little about this family – with most information coming from Julia’s obituary. Julia’s husband, Melvin, is not mentioned in the obituary (nor is their wedding date), so I can only assume they were no longer together at that time. The obituary also only mentions the three named children above, but other sources list a fourth child with the surname Viano. Julia is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Morris, along with many of her siblings. Her name is listed on the Michael N. Sorem gravestone.

Katherine Sorem (Daughter of Michael) Family

Husband: Joseph Viano

Katherine ——— Gladys b. 03/19/1942 (d. 08/19/2012)
b. 09/28/1918 ———┬── Lee Stalker b. ??/??/????
(d. 03/29/2008) ———┬── (m. 06/04/1960)
Joseph Viano ———┬── Joseph (Joe) b. ??/??/????
b. 03/10/1917 ———┬── Carol ?? b. ??/??/????
d. 06/03/1985 ———┬── Ron b. ??/??/????
└── Gloria ?? b. ??/??/????

Married
02/15/1940

Katherine Sorem married Joseph Viano, and they lived in the Morris, Illinois, area, then later in nearby Channahon. In the mid-1990s, Katherine was still living in Channahon, and I met her and we visited briefly. I got some information from her family Bible, but that has unfortunately been misplaced. Much of the information above was taken from her obituary. Gladys ended up in Texas, Joe in Florida, and Ron remained in Channahon. Katherine is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Morris, along with many of her siblings. Her name is listed on the Michael N. Sorem gravestone, but there is also a separate stone for Joseph and Katherine.

Emma S. Sorem (Daughter of Andrew N.) Family

Husband: Andrew M. Anderson

Emma S. _____	Melvin A. b. 12/30/1899 d. 08/31/1943
b. 02/??/1880	└ Levina W. ?? b. 10/30/1900 d. 01/17/1986
d. 09/11/1958	└ Alfred C. b. ??/??/1902 d. ??/??/1987
A. M. Anderson _____	
b. 01/05/1874	
d. 01/04/1951	

Married
05/26/1898

Emma S. Sorem married Andrew M. Anderson in 1898. They had two children, Melvin Artenes and Alfred C. Melvin married Levina W. ??, but I have no other information on them. I was unable to find anything about Alfred. Andrew and Emma are both buried in Saratoga Cemetery north of Morris, Illinois, as are Andrew's parents, Andrew [Anders] A. (1843-1910) and Martha (Tollefson) Anderson (1842-1920), and, of course, as noted earlier, Emma's parents Andrew and Carrie Sorem. Melvin and Levina are also buried in Saratoga Cemetery.

Obituaries from the Morris, IL, Daily Herald

Feb 17 or 18, 1904

DEATH CLAIMS ANOTHER CITIZEN OF MORRIS

Andrew Sorem, Sr., Dies at His Home in Third Ward Late Tuesday Evening

After an illness of several days with pneumonia, Andrew Sorem, Sr., died at his home in this city Tuesday evening.

The deceased was born in Norway, March 25, 1830, and where he grew to manhood. He came to America 37 years ago, and with the exception of a short time spent in Kendall County, had lived in Grundy County ever since crossing the ocean. He was married in 1860, and at once went to housekeeping on the farm in Saratoga township where he lived until he came to Morris some time last fall.

Mr. Sorem was an active, pushing, progressive man and was largely instrumental in the establishment of the Osmonson church near his country home. He is survived by a wife and eight children -- three boys and five girls, all grown and married.

The funeral will be held from the Osmonson church on Friday at 12 o'clock, the services being conducted by Rev. Aarestad after which the remains will be laid to rest in the Osmonson cemetery.

Nov 18, 1918

GLADYS SOREM, 12, DIES OF PLAGUE IN 'FLU' HOSPITAL

Gladys Sorem, 12 years old, died in the Emergency Hospital at noon today from influenza and her body taken to Hoganson's to await burial. She had been in the hospital two weeks. Her father, Mike Sorem, and two brothers, Arnold and Louis, and a sister are in the hospital suffering from the same disease. The large family of twelve were taken to the hospital a week ago, but all have been sent home except the above.

The health authorities declare that if the public will cooperate with them, and observe rigid quarantine where influenza exists, at the same time sending dangerous cases to the emergency hospital, the disease here will be stamped out in a short time.

[Note: Despite the newspaper date shown above, I show a death date of Nov 19, 1918 for Gladys. And two of her siblings, Lewis and Arnold died in the flu epidemic the next day. What a terrible tragedy! Michael and Julia lost three of their ten children in the span of two days.]

Obituaries from the Morris, IL, Daily Herald

Apr 9, 1926

MRS. A.N. SOREM DIED LAST NIGHT

Aged Resident Passes Away After Week's Illness

Mrs. A.N. Sorem, one of the oldest residents of Morris, died last evening at 6:30 o'clock in her home, 804 Kierstad street. Mrs. Sorem was 91 years old, and despite her years, retained remarkable vitality.

In the later years of her life she was able to do most of her housework. Her last illness was a little over a week.

Mrs. Sorem was born in Etne, Norway, February 2, 1835. She was married there to A.N. Sorem and they came to this country in 1867. She lived in Grundy County since that time, 22 years being spent in Morris. The other years in Saratoga township. Her husband died February 16, 1904, and she is survived by eight children: N.A. Sorem, A.A. Sorem, Mike Sorem, Mrs. C.M. Johnson, Mrs. Belle Olson, Mrs. A.M. Anderson, Mrs. Dan Iverson, all of Morris and vicinity; and Mrs. Ed Anderson, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. There are also 39 grandchildren and 36 great-grandchildren. All her children were born here except two. The children were at her bedside when death called her.

Funeral services will be held Monday afternoon at 1 o'clock in the home and at 1:30 o'clock in Bethlehem Lutheran church. Burial will be in Saratoga cemetery.

Apr 11, 1927

HERMAN H. SOREM DIES IN CHICAGO

Year's Illness of Cancer Fatal to Former Resident

Attorney Herman H. Sorem, brother of Andrew Sorem of Morris, died in Chicago Saturday evening after an illness of about one year with a cancer. Funeral services will be conducted at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon at 6431 N. Campbell street and burial will be made in Mt. Olive cemetery.

Mr. Sorem was born in Morris, Nov. 14, 1891 the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Sorem. He was graduated from Morris high school with the class of 1908 and then entered the University of Chicago law school. After his graduation from that institute he continued to make his home in Chicago.

About ten years ago he became the head of a law firm known as Sorem, Powers, Wyeth and Parker, with offices at 166 West Jackson boulevard. This firm grew rapidly in popularity and at the time of his death Mr. Sorem was of the most promising of Chicago's young attorneys.

About a year ago he was taken ill with a small tumor but did not give it much thought until it developed to be a cancer. Everything that medical skill could do was done but to no avail. Since the first of this year he has been unable to attend his office duties.

Mr. Sorem is survived by his wife and one son Herman, 6 years old and one daughter, Betty Jean, one year old. His father and brother Andrew, reside at Morris, his mother having passed away here two years ago.

He was an active member of the Masonic organization.

Obituaries from the Morris, IL, Daily Herald

Oct 2, 3, 4, or 5, 1930

Nels Sorem Is Buried Today

Funeral services for Nels Sorem were largely attended this afternoon conducted in his home at 1:30 and at 2 o'clock in Bethlehem Lutheran church. Rev. CM. Hanson, assisted by Rev. Blegen of Hauges church officiated. Vocal selections were given by a quartet composed of Mrs. Carl Pierce, Mrs. Ray Kindelspire and Ray and Herman Hansen, accompanied by Miss Alma Walker. The pallbearers were Henry Hansen, Andrew Tungesvik, William Watland, John Naden, Ole Olson and Chris Hendricksen. Burial was in Evergreen cemetery.

Among those from out of the city who attended were Mr. and Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. T.A. Sorem of Roland, Minn., Mr. and Mrs. Nels Sorem, of Worthington, Minn., Mrs. Florence Sorem and son, Mr. and Mrs. William Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. Harold VanTeffel and Miss Edith Manton of Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Brewitz and Mr. and Mrs. George Brewitz of Benton Harbor, Mich.

[The reference to Roland, Minn., in this obituary should have been Roland, Iowa. The Nels Sorem from Worthington, Minn., was a cousin of the decedent – the son of Mons Sorem, who was a brother to the decedent's father, Andrew N. Sorem. Mrs. Florence Sorem was the widow of Herman H. Sorem, who was the son of the decedent. Alma Brewitz was the decedent's second wife, which explains the presence of several people with that surname.]

Nov 17 or 18, 1939

Mrs. Alice Sorem Funeral Monday

Funeral services for Mrs. Alice Sorem, 72, who died late Thursday afternoon in her apartment in 315½ West Jefferson street following a long illness, will be held in the Hoganson funeral home Monday afternoon at 1 o'clock and in Bethlehem Lutheran church at 1:30. Burial will be in Saratoga cemetery.

The body is in the Hoganson funeral home to await services.

Mrs. Sorem, who was the former Miss Alice Vogen, was born in Olen, Norway, Dec. 9, 1866.

She came to this country with her parents at the age 14 and most of her life was spent in Saratoga township.

She married Andrew A. Sorem, Sep. 28, 1887 and he preceded her in death four years ago.

She is survived by two sons, Alfred J., of Windom, Minn., Joseph, of Morris and a daughter, Mrs. Bertha Anderson, of Morris. Three brothers and three sisters preceded her in death. She also leaves 12 grandchildren two great-grandchildren.

Obituaries from the Morris, IL, Daily Herald

Feb 25, 1955 (Obituaries Column)

Michael N. Sorem

Michael N. Sorem, 88, died Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in his home at 1024 Lisbon St. The body is at the Davis Funeral home where friends may call until time for services. In lieu of flowers the family has asked that contributions be made to the Heart Fund.

Services will be at 2 p.m., Tuesday in the Davis chapel. The Rev. B. C. Qually will officiate. Interment will be in Evergreen cemetery.

Mr. Sorem was born in Saratoga township, Feb. 3, 1877, a son of the late Andrew and Karie Sorem. He married Julia Thorson here on March 17, 1898 and they soon would have observed their 57th anniversary. Except for a few years spent farming they had resided in Morris.

Surviving are his wife, three daughters, Mrs. Gordon (Amanda) Leach, Mazon; Mrs. Joseph (Kathryn) Viano, Channahon; Mrs. Julia Viano, Morris; four sons, Clifford, John and Michael Jr., all of Morris and Peter of Chico Calif.; 18 grandchildren, six step-grandchildren and four great-grandsons.

There are also four sisters, Mrs. Dan (Betsy) Iverson, Plattville; Mrs. John (Belle) Olson, Mrs. Andrew (Emma) Anderson and Mrs. Chris (Carrie) Johnson, all of Morris. He was preceded in death by a daughter Gladys, two sons, Louis and Arnold, a sister, Mrs. Ed Anderson and two brothers, Nels and Andrew.

Feb 2 or 3, 1956 (Obituaries Column)

Alfred Sorem

Alfred Sorem, 66, died in a hospital in Little Falls, Minn., Wednesday after a long illness. The body will arrive at the Finland Funeral Home Sunday where funeral services will be held Monday at 2 p.m. The Rev, Clair Jennings of Lisbon will officiate. Burial will be in Saratoga cemetery.

Mr. Sorem was born in Saratoga township March 14, 1889, the son of the late Andrew and Alice Vogen Sorem.

Thirty eight years ago he married Rena Iverson of Saratoga township and with the exception of several years, all of their married life was spent in Minnesota. Mrs. Sorem died in 1934. He is survived by one son, Harry Sorem of California, one daughter, Ada of Storden, Minn., and, three sons and two daughters by a second marriage; his widow Eloise; one brother Joseph Sorem of Morris; and one sister Mrs. John (Bertha) Hill of Aurora.

[This obituary identifies Alfred's second wife as Eloise. In fact, I have corresponded with a son from that second marriage (Al), and he has informed me that his mother's name was Louise. This makes sense, as her gravestone is also at Saratoga Cemetery.]

Obituaries from the Morris, IL, Daily Herald

Feb 18, 1961 (Obituaries Column)

Joseph Sorem

Joseph Sorem, 66, of 528 E. Jefferson St., died shortly after noon Friday in Morris hospital following a long illness. The body is at the Fruland Funeral home where friends may call after 3 p.m. Sunday.

Funeral services will be conducted in the Fruland chapel at 1:30 p.m. Monday and at 2 p.m. in Grace Lutheran church. The Rev. I. G. Hinderaker will officiate and burial will be made in Saratoga cemetery.

Mr. Sorem was born Feb. 14, 1895, in Saratoga township, the son of Andrew and Alice Vogen Sorem. He married Annie Olson in Morris on Oct. 7, 1919, and for 32 years they farmed in Saratoga township. Nine years ago he retired from farming and moved to Morris and was employed by Morris Paper Mills until ill health forced his retirement. He was a lifelong member of Grace Lutheran church.

Surviving are his wife; two daughters, Mrs. Edward (Inez) Bellm and Mrs. Donald (Marilyn) Johnson, both of Morris; a son Gordon of Yorkville; nine grandchildren and one sister, Mrs. John Hill, Morris. There are also several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Sorem was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother, Alfred Sorem.

Jun 23 or 24, 1970 (Obituaries Column)

Peter Sorem

Peter Sorem, 58, 1024 Lisbon St. died at his home Sunday morning.

Born Aug. 15, 1911, in Morris he was the son of Michael and Julia (Thorson) Sorem. He was educated in Morris schools and was employed at Diamond National Corp. for 15 years. On July 20, 1946, he married Dorothy (Butler) King. Mr. Sorem was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose.

Surviving are his wife; two daughters, Mrs. Richard (Penelope) Witters, Mrs. Richard (Pamela) Eastman; three sons, Peter Jr., Samuel and Raymond; one grandchild all of California; four step-children; three sisters, Mrs. Gordon (Amanda) Leach, Mrs. Julie Viano both of Morris and Mrs. Joseph (Katharine) Viano of Channahon; two brothers John of Morris and Clifford of East Moline.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Michael, Arnold and Louis; one sister, Gladys.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Davis Funeral Home with the Rev. Norvil Wigtil officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

Friends may call after 4 p.m. today at the Davis Funeral Home.

Obituaries from the Morris, IL, Daily Herald

Dec 29 or 30, 1970 (Obituaries Column)

Mrs. Julia Viano

Mrs. Julia Viano, 55, of 1020 Lisbon St. died at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Morris Hospital.

Born Nov. 24, 1915, in Morris she was a daughter of the late Michael and Julia (Thorson) Sorem. She was educated in Morris schools. For the past 10 years, she was employed at the Morris Hospital.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Dale (Sharon) Gooch of Fairmont, and Mrs. Jerome (Sandy) Seybert of Coal City; a son, Melvin, of Morris; six grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Joseph (Katherine) Viano of Channahon and Mrs. Gordon (Amanda) Leach of rural Morris; two brothers, John Sorem of Morris and Clifford Sorem of Moline.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister and four brothers.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Davis Funeral Home with the Rev. Harold Humbert officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 7 to 10 p.m. this evening at the funeral home.

Jul 28, 1972 (Obituaries Column)

Mrs. Gordon Leach

Mrs. Gordon (Amanda) Leach, 69, of Wauponsee Township, formerly of Mazon, died Thursday afternoon at Morris Hospital.

Born March 3, 1903, she was a daughter of the late Michael and Julia (Thorson) Sorem. Educated in Morris schools, she was a member of the Mazon United Methodist Church, WSCS, Helping Hand Circle and past oracle of Mazon Royal Neighbors.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Lawrence (Esther) Jackson of Mazon and Mrs. Robert (June) Elam of Morris; eight grandchildren; two brothers, John Sorem of Morris and Clifford Sorem of Moline; one sister, Mrs. Joseph (Catherine) Viano of Channahon; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband in 1968, four brothers and two sisters.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Davis Funeral Home in Morris, where friends may call from 7-10 p.m. today. The Rev. Wiliard Giese will officiate at the services. Burial will be in Mazon Cemetery.

Obituaries from the Morris, IL, Daily Herald

Jul 15, 1974 (Obituaries Column)

John L. Hill

John L. Hill, 82, former Morris resident, died at 5 p.m. Sunday at St. Joseph Hospital, Joliet, where he had been a patient for several days. For the past year he had made his home at the Grundy County Home.

He was born Dec. 1, 1891, near Gardner, the son of Lewis F. and Carrie (Tjelle) Hill. On Nov. 26, 1913, he married Gertrude Marie Gunderson of Grundy. She preceded him in death in 1947. He married Bertha Anderson of Morris.

Surviving him are his wife, three sons, LeRoy of Lanark, Merwyn of Mazon and Major Elton, Gardner; four daughters, Mrs. Laverne (Irene) Huston of Gardner, Mrs. Roger (Evelyn) Danielson, Marseilles; Mrs. Herman (Carol) Schaefer of Morris; Mrs. George (Charlene) Sutton of Verona; nieces and nephews; 43 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Preceding him in death are his first wife, three sons, Earlyn, Lester and Arden; a daughter, Mrs. Lyle (Mildred) Schaulin; two brothers and five sisters.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the United Lutheran Church in Gardner with the Rev. E. Einerson officiating.

Friends may call at the Fruland Funeral Chapel Tuesday, 2 until 5 p.m. and 7 until 9 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the United Lutheran Church or St. Joseph Hospital.

Burial will be in Gardner Prairie Cemetery.

Sep 21 or 22, 1977 (Obituaries Column)

Andrew H. Sorem

Andrew H. Sorem, 88, 321 E. Jefferson St., died Wednesday evening at the Morris Lincoln Nursing Home where he had been residing since July 27.

Sorem was born Oct. 16, 1888, in Morris and lived here his entire life.

He was educated in the Morris public schools and operated the Sorem Bootery on Liberty St., until his retirement in 1961.

On June 25, 1913, he married Kathryn Harvey of Chicago.

He was a lifelong member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Surviving are his wife, a daughter Mrs. M. P. (Helen) Graves of Spirit Lake, Iowa, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Herman and a granddaughter Nancy Graves.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 10:30 a.m. in the Fruland Chapel, the Rev. Norval Wigtil officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery

Visitation will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Fruland Chapel.

Obituaries from the Morris, IL, Daily Herald

Dec 18 or 19, 1980 (Obituaries Column)

John Sorem

John Sorem, 80, 916 Fremont Ave., died at 8:40 p.m. Monday at the Morris Hospital.

Born July 17, 1900, in Grundy County, he was a son of Michael and Julia (Thorsen) Sorem.

For many years he was employed by Quaker Oats.

Surviving are a son, Leonard of Coal City; a brother Clifford of East Moline and a sister Mrs. Joseph (Katherine) Viano of Channahon.

Preceding him in death were his parents, four brothers and three sisters.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Evergreen Cemetery with the Rev. David Nygard officiating.

Friends may call from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the Davis Funeral Home. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

Jan 22, 1991 (Obituaries Column)

Mrs. Bertha Hill

Mrs. Bertha (Anderson) Hill, 98, formerly of Morris, died Saturday Jan. 19, 1991, at Rivershores Living Center in Marseilles.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Bethlehem Lutheran church with the Rev. John Skeje officiating. Burial will be in Saratoga cemetery.

Visitation will be from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. today at the Fruland Funeral Home.

Born June 12, 1892, in Saratoga Township, she was a daughter of Andrew and Alice (Vogen) Sorem.

She grew up and received her education in Saratoga Township.

In 1912, she married Lewis Anderson. They farmed in Minnesota for 17 years before moving to the Morris area in 1929. In 1950, she married John Hill.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. William (Gladys) Zahrobski of West Palm Beach, Fla.; five sons, Luvern (Georgene) of Aurora, Irvin (Ellen) of Dwight, Alvin (Thelma) of Springfield, Archie and Arnold of Morris; 12 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; several great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her first husband in 1934, her second husband; a daughter, Mrs. Lowell (Luella) Thompson; one son LeRoy; two grandsons; two brothers, Alfred and Joseph; and a brother and a sister in infancy.

She was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the women's organizations of the church.

Obituaries from the Morris, IL, Daily Herald

Apr 19, 1993 (Obituaries Column)

Mrs. Joseph Sorem

Mrs. Joseph (Annie) Sorem, 93, formerly of 200 Waverly St., Morris, died Friday at the Grundy County Home.

Services were at 1 p.m. Monday at Bethlehem Lutheran Church with Rev. Scott Gray and Rev. Harold T. Masted officiating.

Burial was in Saratoga cemetery.

She was born Oct. 7, 1899, in Plattville, a daughter of Osmond and Lena (Wicks) Olson. She was raised and educated in Plattville.

On Oct. 7, 1919 she married Joseph Sorem. They spent most of their married life farming in Saratoga Township. In 1952, they moved to Morris. She was employed as a cook at Morris High School and at A & W Restaurant.

She was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

She is survived by two daughters, Marilyn Johnson of Morris, and Mrs. Edward (Inez) Bellm of Morris; a son Gordon (Shirley) of Batavia; nine grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband in 1961, and two brothers, Martin Olson and Olaf Olson.

Preferred memorials should go to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or to the donor's choice.

Fruiland Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

(Oct 21, 1996 (Obituaries Column))

Lydia Francis Pope

COAL CITY – Lydia Francis (Waters, Sorem) Pope, 91, died Saturday evening, Oct. 19, 1996, at the Grundy County Home.

Born Feb. 19, 1905, in Morris, she was a daughter of William C. and Clara Belle (Stanhope) Waters.

Educated in Morris Schools; she graduated from Morris High School with the class of 1923. She attended Joliet Junior College.

Employed with Diamond National Corporation in Morris for many years, she retired in 1970.

She was a life-long member of the First United Methodist Church in Morris and was a volunteer at Morris Hospital.

Surviving are her two daughters, Dorothy (William) Rolando of Mazon and Nancy Thompson of Quincy; two sons, Leonard Sorem of Coal City and Wayne (Barbara) Pope of Coal City; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a dear friend, Lillian Johnson of Morris.

Preceding her in death were her parents and a grandchild.

Private graveside services will be held in Evergreen Cemetery. Cremation rites were accorded.

Preferred remembrances are memorial gifts to the Grundy County Home activity fund.

U. C. Davis and Sons Funeral Home Ltd. in Morris is in charge of the arrangements.

Obituaries from the Morris, IL, Daily Herald

(Feb 13, 2008 (Obituaries Column))

Leonard John Sorem

Mr. Leonard J. Sorem, 78, of Coal City, and formerly of Morris, died Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, at his home. Born on Dec. 25, 1929, in Morris, he was a son of John and Lydia (Waters) Sorem.

He was educated in Morris schools and served in the U.S. Army between World War II and the Korean Conflict and was stationed on the island of Guam in the South Pacific.

Mr. Sorem was employed with Diamond National in Morris for several years and then with Alumax Corp. in Aux Sable Township. He was a Detroit Tigers baseball team fan.

Survivors include two sisters, Dorothy (William) Rolando of Coal City, and Nancy Thompson of Quincy; one brother, Wayne (Barbara) Pope of Diamond; and several nieces and nephews.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Private services and inurnment will be conducted at a later date in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

U.C. Davis & Sons Funeral Home, Ltd., 301 W. Washington St., Morris, is in charge of arrangements.

(Mar 29, 2008 (Obituaries Column))

Katherine (Sorem) Viano

Mrs. Joseph Katherine (Sorem) Viano 89 of Channahon passed away early Saturday morning March 29,2008 in the Morris Hospital with her family at her bedside.

Born on September 29, 1918 in Morris, IL she was the daughter of the late Michael and Julia (Thorson) Sorem. Katherine was raised and educated in Morris attending the Morris Center School.

On February 15, 1940 she married Joseph F. Viano who preceded her in death on June 3, 1985.

In 1945, she and her husband moved to Channahon where they would raise their family. Katherine lived in the same house for those 63 years and worked at P J Gould from 1950 until her retirement in 1970. Katherine was born the year of the Spanish flu and lost two brothers and one sister to the flu.

Katherine was a member of the Channahon Goldeneers and the Joliet Eagle's Auxiliary. She enjoyed bowling, swimming, traveling and had a great passion for bingo. She was an avid CUBS fan.

Surviving are her three children; Gladys (Lee) Stalker of Georgetown, Texas, Joseph (Carol) of Ocala, Florida and Ron (Gloria) of Channahon.

Eleven grandchildren; Steven, Michael, Kevin and Christine, Kaylynn, Robert, Chandra, Kathy, Jennifer and Christopher.

18 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by 6 brothers and 3 sisters and one grandson David.

Funeral Services will be held at 10:00am on Tuesday April 1, 2008 in the U. C. Davis and Sons Funeral Home LTD, Morris. Visitation will be Monday March 31, 2008 from 4:00 to 7:00 in the U. C. Davis and Sons Funeral Home LTD. Burial will be in the Evergreen Cemetery in Morris with Pastor Doc Newcomb officiating.

Memorials may be made in Katherine's name to the Grundy Community Volunteer Hospice or the Channahon Goldeneers in Channahon.

Obituaries from the Morris, IL, Daily Herald

(Austin [Texas] American-Statesman Aug 21, 2012)

Gladys Mae (Viano) Stalker

Daughter of Joseph and Katherine (Sorem) Viano.

STALKER, Gladys M., 70, of Georgetown (TX) died Sunday. Survived by husband Lee.

Services pending with Ramsey, Georgetown. Gladys Mae Stalker, age 70, of Georgetown, Texas passed away on Sunday, August 19, 2012, surrounded by her loving family.

It was a beautiful spring day, on March 19, 1942, in Morris, Illinois, when Joseph and Katherine (Sorem) Viano welcomed their baby girl with tears of joy, Gladys Mae, into their lives. It was on June 4, 1960 however, that Gladys had her own tears of joy. She and her one true love, Lee Charles Stalker, exchanged their wedding vows, in Channahon, Illinois. Their life together took them to Kenai, Alaska where Gladys devoted 20 years of service to the Kenai School District. Gladys was an inspirational wife, supportive mother, loving grandmother and a caring sister. Her fearless spirit and the wonderful memories shared will never be forgotten.

Gladys was preceded in death by her parents.

To cherish her memory, Gladys leaves behind her husband, Lee Stalker of Georgetown, Texas; sons: Steve Stalker of Washburn, Wisconsin, Michael Stalker of Washburn, Wisconsin and Kevin Stalker of Kenai, Alaska; daughter, Christine Bruner of Alexandria, Egypt; brothers: Joe Viano of Ocala, Florida and Ron Viano of Channahon, Illinois; as well as her 9 wonderful grandchildren.

Services are currently pending.

(Oct 03, 2014 (Obituaries Column))

Esther E. Jackson

Born: Nov. 9, 1924; in Mazon, IL

Died: Oct. 2, 2014; in Morris, IL

Esther E. Jackson, 89, of Mazon, passed away peacefully on October 2, 2014, at the Morris Hospital. Born November 9, 1924, in Mazon, Esther was the daughter of the late Gordon and Amanda (Sorem) Leach Sr.

Esther was raised and educated in the Mazon grade schools. She graduated with the Mazon-Verona High School class 1944.

Esther married Lawrence Jackson on June 21, 1947 whom preceded her in death on March 25, 2005.

Esther worked in the Seneca shipyards, Douglas Aircraft in California and the Lindsay Chemical Company. She was a homemaker and enjoyed taking care of her cats. She enjoyed watching the Cubs and Bulls play and having her family near her. She was a member of the Mazon Methodist Church, a RNA (Royal Neighbors of America) of Mazon and a member of the Senior Citizen Bowling League.

Esther is survived by her son, Dennis (Kathleen) Jackson of Morris; her grandson, James (Christie) Jackson of Michigan; granddaughter, Linda Watson of Morris; great grandsons, Mason Jackson of Michigan and Jacob Watson of Morris; great granddaughter, Julie Jackson of Michigan; brother, Milford Leach of Morris; and her sister, June (Robert) Elam of Morris; and one niece and seven nephews.

Esther was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 56 years of marriage; and two brothers, Gordon Leach Jr. and Davey Leach.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, October 5, 2014, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the U.C. Davis-Callahan Funeral Home located at 301 West Washington Street in Morris. A Celebration of Esther's Life will be held on Monday October 6, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home with Pastor Deborah Percell of the First United Methodist Church officiating.

Marriage Stories from the Morris, IL, Daily Herald

Jun 28, 1911

HERMAN SOREM MARRIED; IS VISITING HIS PARENTS

Had Been Attending the University of Chicago, But Quit Some Time Ago and Went to Work.

Herman Sorem arrived home at 3 o'clock this afternoon from Chicago, bringing with him a young lady said to be his bride. The couple went to the home of the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Sorem, Benton Street.

Last evening relatives received a letter from Herman stating that he was married, but as he had done considerable "joshing" along that line, they hardly believed the statement.

The Herald called the groom over the telephone after his arrival, but he refused to verify his marriage, being too modest.

Herman had been attending the University of Chicago, but quit some time ago and went to work in Chicago. For several years he was a carrier for the Herald.

[I believe that the bride mentioned in this story is Laura Terbush. Could not find much confirming information.]

Marriage Stories from the Morris, IL, Daily Herald

Jun 25, 1913

GRADUATE NURSE BECOMES BRIDE

Sorem – Harvey Nuptials Take Place.

ARE MARRIED IN CHICAGO

ANDREW SOREM AND MISS KATE HARVEY MARRY TODAY – CEREMONY AT HOME OF BRIDE'S PARENTS IN CITY – LEAVE AT ONCE FOR TRIP THROUGH IOWA – WILL MAKE HOME IN MORRIS IN WEST AVENUE COTTAGE – BRIDE RAISED FROM WHENCE SHE CAME TO MORRIS IN JANUARY TWO YEARS AGO – SOREM NATIVE OF CITY.

A pretty home wedding took place in Chicago today when Miss Kate Harvey, one of the graduate nurses of the Morris hospital training school became the bride of Andrew Sorem of Morris. The ceremony was performed at 10:30 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Harvey, 2349 North avenue. Only the immediate relatives were present and the wedding was plain and simple in detail.

The bridal couple entered the parlor attended by Miss Edith Matten, of Chicago, and Clarence Bonar, of Morris. The sacred words uniting the young people in marriage were said by Rev. J. T. McMullan, pastor of a Chicago Methodist church. The ring ceremony was used.

Following the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served and later in the day Mr. and Mrs. Sorem left for a ten days' wedding trip to different places in Iowa, where they will be the guests of relatives. When they return to Morris they will go to housekeeping in a cottage at 603 West avenue.

Mrs. Sorem is one of an interesting family of sons and daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Harvey. Her father is a successful plumber and has been established in his present location for twenty-seven years.

In January, 1911, Mrs. Sorem came to Morris and began her training at the hospital as a nurse. She finished the course with the class of last year, remaining at the hospital until she had taken all of the work necessary. She is a very popular young lady among her many friends.

Mr. Sorem is a son of Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Sorem, of Morris. For the past ten years he has been associated with the Hynds Bros., show store, starting in as a helper and is now a confidential clerk and is held in the highest esteem by his employer as well as by all who know him.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH INQUEST VERDICT

Jan 2, 1914

Gilbert Hamre Drank Some But Saved Money

TWO BOTTLES OF WHISKEY

Conductor Testified Were On His Person But Were Not Introduced At The Inquest.--\$75 and a Note for \$400 Were Turned Over.

The coroner's jury inquiry into the death of Gilbert Hamre at Phelan & Hoganson's last night brought out the fact that though he drank some it could not have been excessive as the sum of \$75 was found on his person and a note for \$400 made a few days ago with the bank of Newark for a Millington resident. Hamre worked only as a farm hand and must have been of a saving disposition.

The jury was composed of H. M. Larson, Lee Osmonson, Wm. Robinson, Harry Bulland, Nels Sorem and Will Page. They returned a verdict that deceased met his death accidentally while on the right of way of the C. O. & P. Ry.

Roland Martin, motorneer, of the car who lives in Joliet testified that the car was nearing Wilson's crossing and was traveling about forty miles an hour. There were no passengers on the car. He whistled twice for Wilson's crossing but there was no one signaled. When about 100 feet from the crossing a man came out of the waiting shed evidently to flag the car, but stood in the center of the track.

The motorman applied the emergency brake but it was too late and the car struck the man as he was about to step off the tracks. The car was stopped after it had gone a little distance and the motorman went back to the victim to find him huddled against the fence. The conductor, John McNamara, of tOtawa, backed the car down to where the man lay, while the chief dispatcher was notified to call Morris and have a physician and ambulance there. Hamre was placed on the car and brought to Morris, but he died before the ambulance arrived. The motorman stated that a half pint of whiskey was found on the body. The conductor told a similar story and stated that he searched the body and found \$75 and a lot of papers, but did not know what they were. He stated that the man had two bottles of whiskey on him – a pint and a half pint. The money and papers were placed in an envelope and turned over to the coroner, but the whiskey was not.

Officer Chris. Johnson told of meeting Hamre and that he got on the 9 o'clock westbound car. It was reported he paid his fare to Seneca, but this was not brought out. He evidently got off the 9 o'clock car at Wilson's crossing, which is the place he would get off at to go to the Hollenbeck farm where he works, but instead of going home thought he would wait for the next car east and come back to Morris. The long wait in the cold shed until 10:42 probably confused him and he forgot to signal the car from the shed, according to the usual custom of striking a match or making a light of some kind.

The brother of deceased was present and told of seeing him a few days ago and that he had been drinking then.

Martin Hanley, adjuster for the road and Russel Hanson, attorney, were present at the inquest from Ottawa.

(Continued)

(Continued from previous page)

Deceased would be 60 years old on Jan. 6 and was born in Norway. He came to this country some thirty years ago and has resided in and around this neighborhood since.

He was married about 20 years ago to Mrs. Newton but they did not long live together. One son was the result of that union. He leaves a brother, Goodman, living in Kendall county who will soon move to Morris; another brother Thomas in Canada; two sisters, Mrs. Joe Hill in Humboldt, Ia., and a sister in Norway.

The funeral will be held Saturday morning at 10 o'clock from the Osmonson church in Saratoga, Rev. Aarrestad officiating and interment will be in Osmanson cemetery.

[In this story, as before, typographical errors and misspellings are left as they originally appeared. The interest in this article (as shown in the second paragraph) is that Nels Sorem (son of Andrew N. Sorem) served on this coroner's jury.]

Miscellaneous Articles from the Morris, IL, Area

From "History of Grundy County, Illinois: Containing a history from the earliest settlement to the present time"
(Biographical sketches, portraits of some early settlers, prominent men, etc.)

(Volumes 1-2)

Published 1882

ANDREW SOREM, farmer, P. O. Morris, was born in Norway March 25, 1839; son of Nels Michaelson and Brita Larsdottor. Nels, by occupation a farmer, was born in Norway in 1784, and died in the same place in 1874. Brita was born in that country in 1796, and died there in 1871. Andrew attended school in Norway, and was married there June 24, 1861, to Carrie Gregoriusdotter, who was born in Norway February 2, 1825. Her parents, Gregorius and Brita Anderson, were both natives of Norway. Andrew was a farmer in Norway, and since his residence in this country has followed the same pursuit. Andrew and his wife Carrie are the parents of eight children – Nels, Andrew, Betsy, Tena, Bell, Carrie, Michael, and Emma. Mr. Sorem has been School Director in Saratoga, Grundy County. He is a Republican, and a member of the Lutheran Church.

MONS N. SOREM, farmer, P. O. Morris, was born in Norway May 12, 1840. His education was received in the schools of that country. He was married in Norway May 6, 1864, to Sarah Ostrom, a native of that country, who was born March 28, 1838. They have had nine children – Nels N., born September 11, 1864; Severt, born September 30, 1866; Nels Michael born December 12, 1868, deceased; Nels Michael, born June 4, 1870; Isabel S., born May 22, 1872; Ben L., born April 16, 1874; Lomis, born February 29, 1876; Mons O., born October 31, 1878; and Betsy E., born July 30, 1881. Mr. Sorem began life as a farmer. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. And Mrs. Sorem are members of the Lutheran Church. They came to this county in 1867.

[Once again, this information is transcribed as it was written in the book, with all typographical and factual errors in place. Note the aberrant spellings of "Larsdottor" and "Gregoriusdotter," for example. The wife of Mons was Siri Ostrem (not "Ostrom"), though it is possible she also went by "Sarah." Some of the spellings of the children's names are also curious. Andrew's daughter "Betsy" should be "Betsey" as shown on her gravestone. And "Bell" should be "Belle." In the Mons Sorem family, "Isabel" should be "Belle," "Lomis" should be "Lewis," and "Betsy" should be "Bessie." Also note that Mons O. generally went by his middle name, Ole. Mons and Siri's youngest, Carrie, had not been born as of the writing of this book.]

Miscellaneous Articles from the Morris, IL, Area

From "BOOT AND SHOE RECORDER"
The Great National Shoe Weekly
Established April 1, 1882
December 17, 1921
Page 71

JOHN W. HYNDS DEAD

John W. Hynds of the firm of Hynds Bros., retail shoe merchants of 220 Liberty Street, Morris, Ill., recently passed away. Mr. Hynds' death has brought about a change in firm name to that of the Sorem Bootery. Andrew H. Sorem, the head of the establishment which bears his name, has been connected with Hynds Bros, for the past eighteen years.

This concludes the section of this document concerning the Andrew N. Sorem family.

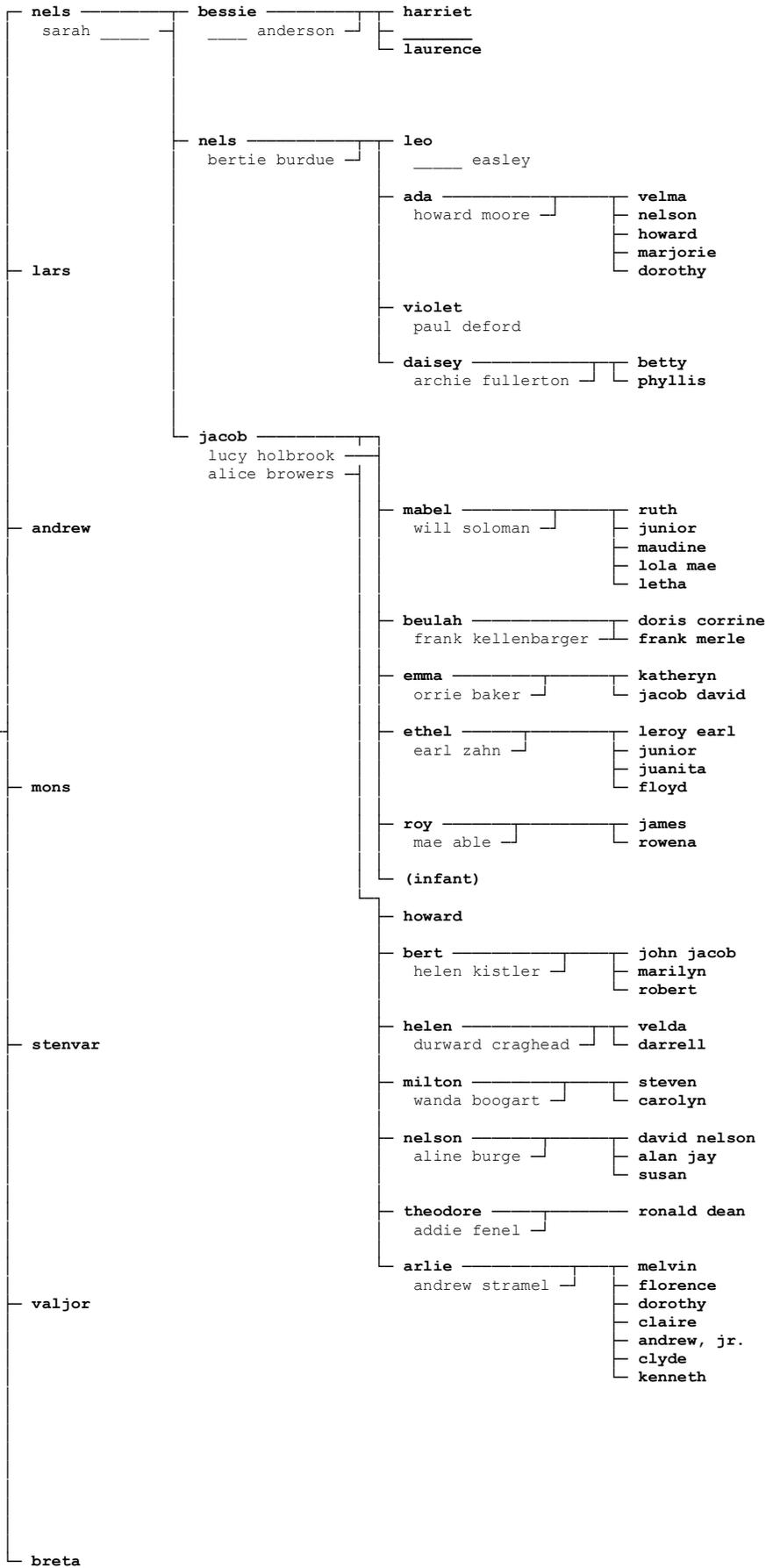
Note that either in the last pages of this document or in a separate document are cemetery pictures, and perhaps other miscellaneous pictures from all branches of the family.

Nels Sorem

The only information I have at this time on the Nels Sorem (brother of Mons) family came from a family tree that someone had done, and sent to someone else to look at and update. Unfortunately, I do not know who either of these people were or are. I do have it on good authority that shortly after arriving in the USA, Nels died of heat stroke in the fields in Illinois, and his family later moved to Kansas where they became wheat farmers. Many family members also pursued other lines of work.

SOREM

the descendants
of nels and breta
of sorheim, near
etne, norway



Nels Sorem (brother of Mons) Family

Wife: Sarah ??

Nels _____ b. ??/??/???? d. ??/??/????	}	Bessie b. ??/??/???? └── _____ Anderson b. ??/??/????
Sarah _____ b. ??/??/???? d. ??/??/????		Jacob b. ??/??/???? └── Lucy Holbrook b. ??/??/???? └── Alice Browsers b. ??/??/????
Married ??/??/????		

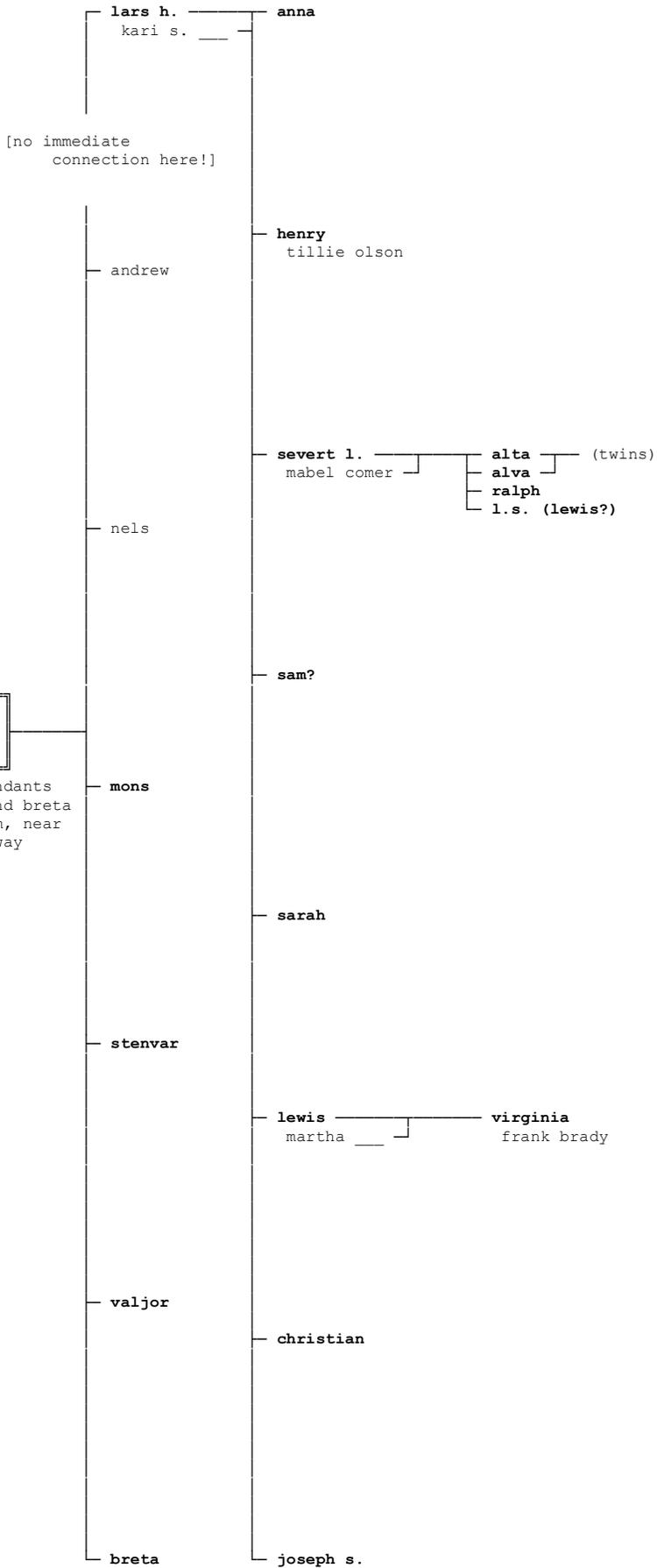
Nels (son of Nels Michaelson, 1784-1874, and Brita Larsdatter, 1796-1871) and Sarah (unknown surname) were both born in Norway, I assume, but I have no birth, death, or marriage dates for this family to speak of. The information I have has come as a result of brief telephone and mail correspondence with some of this family. I lost touch over the years, but hope to find someone in this family to whom I can pass the information I have collected on the entire family.

This concludes the section of this document concerning the Nels Sorem family.

Note that either in the last pages of this document or in a separate document are cemetery pictures, and perhaps other miscellaneous pictures from all branches of the family.

Lars H. Sorem

I have very limited information at this time on the Lars H. Sorem family. Since this family lived in the Worthington, Minnesota, area at least for a time, some information was gleaned from newspapers and other documents in that region while researching the Mons Sorem family. See the family tree below.



SOREM

the descendants
of nels and breta
of sorheim, near
etne, norway

Lars H. Sorem (probable cousin of Mons) Family

Wife: Kari S. ??

Lars H.	Anna	b. 04/??/1873
b. ??/??/1839	Henry	b. 02/??/1875
d. ??/??/1916	└─ Tillie Olson	b. 02/??/1877
Kari S.	Severt L.	b. 07/??/1877
b. ??/??/1847	└─ Mabel M. Comer	b. ??/??/????
d. ??/??/1925	Sam?	b. ??/??/????
Married	Sarah	b. 11/??/1881
??/??/????	Lewis	b. 09/??/1883
	└─ Martha ??	b. ??/??/????
	Christian	b. 04/30/1886
	Joseph S.	b. 01/??/1889

Lars H. and Kari S. were both born in Etne, Norway, and were married in Etne, but I do not know when. They immigrated from Norway in 1887, and moved through Morris, Illinois, to Iowa, then to Ransom Township, Nobles County, Minnesota. The 1910 census for Ransom Township lists Lars and Kari (spelled as Carrie), and children Anna, Severt L., Sarah, Lewis (spelled as Louis), Chris, and Joseph S. Another son, Henry, was listed separately, as he was 25 years old and married (to Tillie Olson on November 15, 1899). They are listed as renters. There may have also been another (probably older) brother named Sigvard (or Sjure). I am also unsure of the "Sam" listed above. I did find that Severt L., Lewis, and Sam Sorem had an ice business in Minneapolis in the 1930s. It is not clear whether Sam was a brother to Severt L. or a son, but it looks more likely that he was a brother. The children listed above were all born in Norway, except for Joseph, who was born in Iowa. Christian died in a hunting accident in 1902 at the age of 16 (see the Worthington newspaper write-up in the Mons Sorem section). He was hunting at the time with Irvin and Walter Comer. Severt L. married Mabel Comer on March 18, 1903. In 1936, Mr. and Mrs. Sigvard Sorem, and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Sorem lived in Minneapolis. They came to Worthington for the funeral of Mrs. Nels (Elizabeth Vogen) Sorem in early March 1936. In 1916 when Siri (wife of Mons) died, Mrs. Lars Sorem came to her funeral from Iowa (she may have moved there around 1909). So it is apparent that these two families were acquainted, and almost certainly related. Lewis and Martha Sorem had a daughter, Virginia, who married Frank Brady. Lars, Kari, and Christian are all buried at the Worthington Cemetery. As an aside, it is possible that Kari and Siri were sisters, but this is far from certain.

In a previous version of this document, I identified Lars H. as a brother to Mons, but that was incorrect. Mons did have a brother of that name, but this is not him.

I hope to find someone from this family to whom I can pass the information I have collected on the entire family.

This concludes the section of this document concerning the Lars H. Sorem family.

Note that either in the last pages of this document or in a separate document are cemetery pictures, and perhaps other miscellaneous pictures from all branches of the family.

Sorems in Story County, Iowa

Once again, the information I have at this time on those in the Story County and Marshall County areas of Iowa with the Sorem surname is quite limited. I've only had brief correspondence with anyone there, and most information has been gleaned from newspaper archives and visits to cemeteries.

Obituaries from the Iowa Papers in Story County

Jun 20, 1929 (Nevada, IA, Journal)

MR. OSTREM DIED THIS AFTERNOON

FATHER OF DR. OSTREM PASSED ON AFTER A LINGERING ILLNESS

Henry Ostrem, 68, died today at 12:30 p. M. At the home of his son, Dr. George Ostrem, 935 Eighth street, after an illness of over five months.

While definite arrangements have not been made for the funeral, it is probable that it will be held on Friday, with short services at the Ostrem home here, following by the funeral service and interment at the old home at Jewell.

Mr. Ostrem, who with his wife, had lived in Nevada for the past four years in the home of their son, leaves his wife and three sons. The sons are Dr. George Ostrem of Nevada, Dr. E. H. Ostrem of Iowa Falls and S. L. Ostrem of the State Security Commission of Des Moines.

Mr. Ostrem was a native of Norway but had lived in Iowa since his boyhood.

He was united in marriage to Miss Kaia Vike of Skaanevik, Bergen, Norway, on February 25, 1909. He leaves to mourn his death, his widow, Mrs. Sorem, two sisters in this country, Mrs. Halvor Tjelmeland of Radcliffe, and Mrs. A. J. Shold of this place, and one brother and two sisters in Norway, G. A. Sorem, Mrs. Karine Sheldahl and Mrs. Valger Haaland, all of Etne. A nephew, Andrew Tjelmeland, has made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Sorem since he was 11 years old.

Mr. Sorem had not been feeling well for some time and on January 13 submitted to an operation in an effort to regain his health. He suffered a relapse and passed away the following Thursday.

The funeral was held Monday at 1:30 at the home and at 2 o'clock in Salem church, which was filled with friends from far and near. Rev. Olaf Holen officiated. Ole L. Larson, who has been living at the Sorem home the last four months, also spoke a few words at the church. Two fitting songs were sung by the church choir. Interment took place in the Roland cemetery.

Besides the many floral offerings, a number of donations were made to missions and charities in memory of the deceased, among them a \$25 donation from Mrs. Sorem and a similar amount from Salem Lutheran Congregation.

Mr. Sorem was a respected and trusted member of Salem congregation. He was a trustee for many years and acted as secretary for some time. He had served as deacon of the church for several years before his death. He was also a member of the board of directors of the Mitre Iowa Indremissionsforeningen.

Died Jan 16, 1930 (Nevada, IA, Journal)

T. A. Sorem

Torres A. Sorem was born at Etne, Bergen, Norway, December 18, 1867, and died at the Methodist hospital in Des Moines Thursday, January 16, at the age of 62 years and 29 days.

He came to America in 1891 and has lived in the county since that time. He arrived in Story City and later came to Roland.

Obituaries from the Iowa Papers in Story County

Died Jun 23, 1936 (Nevada Journal)
(This is Anna K. Ostrem)

Local Man Called Upon to Mourn Death of Mother

Mrs. Henry Ostrem, 75, mother of Dr. George Ostrem of 935 Eighth street, died at Iowa sanitarium at 1 p. m. today, after lingering illness.

Mrs. Ostrem, who made her home with her son and family, had been in failing health for a number of years and had failed very rapidly during the past few months.

Mrs. Ostrem, a native of Norway, Europe, where she was born December 15, 1860, had lived in Nevada for the past ten years or more. The husband passed away about seven years ago and since that time she had continued her home with her son and family.

Funeral arrangements have not been made as yet, but interment will be in the cemetery at Jewell, by the side of her husband.

She leaves three sons, they being Dr. George Ostrem of Nevada, Dr. E. H. Ostrem of Joice, Iowa, and S. L. Ostrem of Des Moines.

Died Jan 21, 1937 (Ames Milepost)
(This is Severt M. Sorem, son of Mons)

SEVERT SOREM

Severt Sorem, 70, died Sunday evening at 8:30 at the Story City hospital, from the effects of injuries sustained in a fall on Thursday, at Sunset Home, where he and his wife had been making their home for the past three weeks. Mr. and Mrs. Sorem came to the home from Roland where they had lived for a number of years, having moved to Roland from Story City, where they were earlier day residents.

He is survived only by his wife.

(Apparently also the Ames Milepost, some time later)

S. M. SOREM

Funeral services for S. M. Sorem, 70, who died at the Story City hospital Sunday evening from the effects of a fall a few days before at Sunset Home, were held this afternoon at 2:00, at Immanuel church following a prayer service in the chapel at Sunset Home. Burial in the Story City cemetery.

Obituaries from the Iowa Papers in Story County

Died Mar 1938 (Nevada Journal Apr 7, 1938)
(This is Oscar Ostrem)

preceded in death by his wife, who died in 1915.
There are also 24 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

O. Ostrem, 87, a former merchant and resident of Story City and Jewell for over 60 years, died early Monday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Karl C. Helvig, in Des Moines. Death was caused by kidney trouble and complications.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at the Bethesda Lutheran church at Jewell, with rev. Carl Opsahl in charge, assisted by Rev. Rasmussen, Des Moines. Burial was made in Evergreen cemetery at Jewell.

Born in Norway

Mr. Ostrem was born Jan. 1, 1851, in Etna, Norway, and came to this country at the age of 16, settling in Illinois. He lived there ten years and then moved to Iowa, where he spent the remaining 61 years of his life. He was a pioneer merchant, operating general stores at both Story City and Jewell for many years.

He went out of the mercantile business, however, to accept a position as a traveling salesman, and also sold real estate. Mr. Ostrem was forced to retire several years ago due to his health.

Leaves Ten Children

He was secretary of Sondhordland Laget, national Norwegian organization, composed entirely of settlers from Sondhordland, for 17 years. He had been a member of Bethesda Lutheran church at Jewell ever since it was founded.

Mr. Ostrem leaves two sons and eight daughters: Mrs. Wm. S. Hedin, Portland, Ore.; Mrs. I. D. Rumer, Klamath Falls, Ore.; Dr. Christine O. Mitterling and Carrie Ostrem, Webster City; Mrs. Ralph Taylor, Swaledale; Mrs. Earl E. Johnson, Williams; Mrs. Helvig, Des Moines; Mrs. Harold Hiller, Jewell; Oscar O. Ostrem, Whittier, Calif., and Dr. Carl T. Ostrem, Des Moines. He was

Obituaries from the Iowa Papers in Story County

Died Nov 27, 1943 (Ames Milepost)

OSMUND O. SOREM

Osmond O. Sorem, 66, of Marshalltown, but a longtime resident of Story county, was killed when a Great Western switch engine struck his car at a grade crossing on 12th Ave., Marshalltown, early Saturday morning.

Sorem, a night watchman at the plant of the Lennox Furnace Co., had just left work at the plant. His body was found about 100 feet from the point where the car was struck.

Osmond O. Sorem was born Sept. 13, 1877, in Etna, Norway, son of Ole and Edgen Haagland. He changed his name when he received his naturalization papers upon entrance to the United States when he was 18 years of age. He first went to Roland and worked there and at Cambridge for a time, then moved to McCallsburg in 1899. There he married Miss Josephine Olsen Sept. 24, 1902, and the couple lived in McCallsburg four years.

Until 1899 Sorem was a blacksmith by-trade, but later farmed for 20 years in Story county. He went to Marshalltown in 1939.

He is survived by his wife; a daughter, Mrs. Orville Corbin of Ames; a son Otis E. Sorem of Marshalltown; daughters Mrs. Ergen Britson and Mrs. Harold Hager, both of Marshalltown, and Mrs. Joseph Kacin of Gary, Ind. Three children died in infancy.

Also surviving are four brothers, Tollef haaland of Story City and Hans Haaland of New York, and two brothers and a sister live in Norway. There are eleven grand children. The

[Missing the rest of this!]

(Marshalltown paper??, Nov 29, 1943)

Former Story County Man Dies In Crossing Crash

Osmund O. Sorem, 66, longtime resident of Story county, became the first car fatality in Marshalltown since May. Mr. Sorem was killed when a Great Western switch engine struck his car at a grade crossing on Twelfth avenue in Marshalltown, early Saturday morning.

Sorem, night watchman at the Lennox Furnace company, was leaving work at the time of the mishap, and was found about 100 feet from the point where the auto was struck.

Witnesses said Sorem was apparently thrown from the car and that he fell on the front of the engine after the cylinder head of the locomotive struck the left side of the car, near the door. The auto was a 1928 model Chevrolet coach.

From all indications the body slipped down near the wheels of the engine about 40 feet farther on and was badly mutilated when it was finally thrown clear 30 or 35 feet farther away.

Osmund O. Sorem was born Sept. 13, 1877, in Etna, Norway, son of Ole and Ergen Haagland. He changed his name when he received his naturalization papers upon entrance to the United States when he was 18 years of age. He first went to Roland and worked there and at Cambridge for a time, and then moved to McCallsburg in 1899. There he married Miss Josephine Olsen Sept. 24, 1902, and the couple lived at McCallsburg for four years.

Until 1899 Sorem was a blacksmith by trade, but then he farmed for 20 years in Story county, going to Marshalltown in 1939.

He worked for martin Anderson, contractor, and held various positions as fireman for several business establishments. For the past year he was employed as night watchman by Lennox.

Obituaries from the Iowa Papers in Story County

Died Mar 2, 1956 (Ames Milepost, Mar 20)

OBITUARY

Mrs. Josie Sorem

McCALLSBURG -- Funeral service for Mrs. Josie Sorem, Marshalltown, was held Monday afternoon at Purcell-Davis Funeral Home, Marshalltown.

Pallbearers were Eugene Corbin, Virgil Corbin, Dwayne Corbin, Christy Hager and Sherman Sorem. Soloist was Thomas Stensvaag and the organist, Mary Louise Bennet. Rosella Dillon, Betty Willis and Joyce Swanson were in charge of flowers.

Graveside service and burial were in McCallsburg Cemetery.

Josie O., daughter of Isaac and Bertha Olson, was born in Hardin County June 4, 1882, and died at her home March 2 at the age of 73 following a three-week illness. A heart ailment was the cause of death.

She was married to Osmund O. Sorem of McCallsburg Sept. 24, 1902. They lived in Story County until moving to Marshalltown in 1930.

Her husband, parents and three children preceded her in death.

Survivors are five children - Mabel (Mrs. Joseph Kacin), Gary, Ind.; Julia (Mrs. Orville Corbin), Ames; Bertha (Mrs. Ergen Britson), Marshalltown; Otis Sorem, Marshalltown; and Pearl (Mrs. Harold Hager), Davenport; 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren; two brothers, William Olson, Mason City, and L. T. Olson, Marshalltown; and two sisters, Mrs. Lena Jones and Mrs. Anna Peterson, Marshalltown.

Relatives at the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Ole Haaland, McCallsburg, Mr. and Mrs. Tillet Haaland, McCallsburg, and their parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Haaland and Mr. and Mrs. Juel Haaland, Nevada.

(paper unknown, 1956)

Mrs. Sorem Dies in Marshalltown

Mrs. Osmund Sorem, 73, formerly a resident of McCallsburg, died at her home in Marshalltown Friday from a heart attack.

Funeral services will be Monday at 2 p. m. in Purcell Funeral Home, Marshalltown. Graveside service will be in McCallsburg Cemetery about 3:30 p. m.

Survivors are a son, Otis, Marshalltown; four daughters -- Mrs. Orville Corbin, Ames; Mrs. Joe Kacin, Gary, Ind.; Mrs. Ergen Dritson, Marshalltown; and Mrs. Harold Hagen, Davenport, and two brothers and three sisters.

Obituaries from the Iowa Papers in Story County

Died Jan 16, 1967 (paper unknown)

Rites Set for Kaia Sorem

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Thursday from Salem Lutheran Church. Roland, for Mrs. Kaia Sorem, 87, who died early Monday morning at Story City Hospital.

The Rev. Everett Nelson will officiate and burial will be in Roland Cemetery.

Mrs. Sorem was born in Norway but had been a Roland resident for many years.

She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Taletta Gronstad, Etna, Norway, and Mrs. Caroline Erickson, Olds, Alberta, Canada, and was preceded in death by her husband, Torres, two sisters and three brothers.

The body will lie in state at Soderstrum Funeral Home, Roland, until time for services.

(possibly the same paper)

Kaia Sorem died today

Mrs. Kaia Sorem, 86, Roland, died about 8:30 a. m. today at Story City Hospital.

Born in Norway, Mrs. Sorem had been a resident of Roland most of her life.

She is survived by a sister in Canada and sisters in Norway.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Torres Sorem.

Funeral services are being arranged by Soderstrum Funeral Home, Roland.

Died Apr 4, 1974 (Nevada Journal)

DEATHS

Andrew W. Sorem

Andrew William Sorem was born at Etne, Norway, on February 2, 1907, one of ten children of Sjur and Anna (Stodde) Sorem.

He became God's child by Holy Baptism at the front of the Lutheran Church at Etne, as an infant; and later, confirmed for himself his Baptismal Covenant before the altar of that same church.

When Andy was about 23 years of age, he came to the United States to live for some years in the Roland-Story City area. Later he moved to Mitchell County where he was employed on farms for over 20 years. Both Ingolf Motland and John Field made theirs his home for many years.

Andy's last few years were in the Osage Hotel. After a few days in the Mitchell County Hospital, he departed this life on Thursday, April 4, 1974.

Andy has one brother, John, living in the United States at Nevada, Iowa. He has three brothers and one sister still living in Norway; Sverre on the home place at Etne; Erik his home at Stavanger; Torris living at Bergen, and Alma Meland at Haugesund.

The funeral service was held at the Champion Funeral Home in Osage on Monday April 8 at 11 o'clock with Pastor Paul Metzger officiating. William Woods sang, "How Great Thou Art" and Mrs. Alvin Christiansen sang, "Behold a Host."

The committal service was held in the Roland Cemetery with Pastor Everett Nelson officiating. Pallbearers were Stanley Sorem, Arthur Sorem, Dale Sorem, Richard Sorem, Ronald Sorem, William Woods and Duane Brodie.

Obituaries from the Iowa Papers in Story County

(paper unknown)

ANDREW WILLIAM SOREM

Funeral services will be held Monday at 11 a. m. at the Champion Funeral Home for Andrew William Sorem of Osage who died Thursday at the Mitchell County memorial Hospital in Osage.

Born February 2, 1907 in Etne, Norway, he is survived by one brother, John of Nevada; three brothers and one sister in Norway.

Graveside services will be held at 3:30 p. m. at the Roland Cemetery with Pastor Nelson officiating. Ladies of Salem will serve lunch at the church for friends and relatives.

Died Oct 23, 1987 (Nevada Journal)

JOHN B. SOREM

John B. Sorem, 82, of 420 I Ave., Nevada IA, died Friday, Oct. 23, 1987, at Story County Hospital, Nevada, where he had been for the past two weeks. Death was due to a heart attack.

Mr. Sorem was born Aug. 17, 1905, at Etne, Norway to Sjur and Anna Marie Sorheim. He had been a resident of Story County the past 63 years.

He was married to Effie H. Sampson Nov. 18, 1927, at Indianola IA.

Survivors include his wife Effie; three daughters, Donna Woods of South Africa, Barbara Brodie of Nevada and Sandra Thoreson of Beaufort SC; five sons, Stanley of Winona MN, Richard of Ames IA, Arthur of Roland IA and Ronald and Dale of Nevada; 21 grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and three brothers living in Norway.

Mr. Sorem farmed in Story County for 43 years. He was former owner of Sorem Sales, Inc., at Nevada. He was a member of Salem Lutheran Church in Roland, the Golden K Kiwanis Club at Nevada, and the Sons of Norway. He was a volunteer in elderly activities.

Funeral services will be held from Salem Lutheran Church in Roland Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 1:30 p.m. with Rev. Harry Krieg Jr. officiating. Burial will be in the Roland Cemetery at Roland.

Friends may call at Chet Ryan Mortuary, 5th St. and G Ave. in Nevada, Tuesday evening, Oct. 27, from 7 to 9 p.m., where the family will meet friends.

A memorial fund has been established.

This concludes the section of this document concerning the Sorems in the Story County and Marshall County areas in Iowa.

Hopefully I have also created a separate document containing pictures of gravestones, maps to cemeteries, and perhaps other miscellaneous pictures from all branches of the family. I chose to have a separate document, as this one is already very large – nearly 200 pages and over 20 megabytes in size. There will always be more to research, which I hope to pass on to another generation. Much of the family has become dispersed, but there are also new computer-based tools to assist in the research. Good luck to anyone who decides to “pick up the torch!”